

Town Board Meeting
via Google Meet
April 14, 2022
7:00PM

The invitation to the meeting has been posted, the public is present. There will be minutes for this meeting and this meeting will be recorded.

Members Present: Supervisor Mettler, Councilperson Wolf, Councilperson Gansowski, Councilperson Judd, and Councilperson Sullivan.

Present: Town Clerk, Lynn Connolly, Attorney Jonathon Tingley present via Google Meet

Call to Order

Supervisor Mettler opens the Town Board meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to approve and accept the Minutes as written for the Public Hearing & Town Board meeting of March 10, 2022.

All in favor. Motion was approved.

Announcements

Supervisor Mettler states that the town has masks and COVID tests available for anyone at the Town Clerk's office. If picking up for an organization, please call ahead.

Supervisor Mettler states that there is a care giving class offered by the Office of the Aging. It is called Powerful Tools for Caregivers. This is a free six-week course. For further information, please go to the town website or call the Town Clerk's office.

Supervisor Mettler states that Summer Employment Program is being offered by Columbia County. More information can be found on the town website or contact Supervisor Mettler if interested. Wages are \$13.50 per hour and if signed up you become a part of the New York State Retirement System.

Supervisor Mettler states that there is a Columbia County Hazardous Waste Day at the Greenport Highway Garage on May 7, 2022. This will be in the Copake Connection and the town website for information.

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town of Copake Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 16, 2022 at 11:00am at the Town Park and Councilperson Sullivan, who just joined the meeting, will be discussing this later in the evening.

Correspondence

From-Tammy Gaskell, Roe Jan Library, a thank you note

From-Frank and Marcia Peteroy, several letters regarding hamlet sign

From-Cara Boyle, letter regarding serving as a member of the Columbia County Environmental Management Council

From- DEC, two notices regarding applications for DEC permits

From-Columbia County, letter regarding Summer Youth Employment Program

From-Kneller Insurance Agency, letter regarding insurance renewal

From-Signe Adams, email regarding short term rentals

From-Law Office of John Friedman, letter regarding 30-day Municipal Notice on behalf of Random Harvest LLC to apply for NYS Liquor License

From-Department of Transportation, letter advising SEQR Determination regarding guiderails being placed

From- Mary Ann Carrick, member of the CAC, note regarding Upper Taghkanic Headwaters Conservation Plan

Supervisor Mettler states that Mary Ann Carrick along with Cara Boyle, are active in the development of the Upper Taghkanic Creek Watershed. They would like to give a 10 minute presentation at the June 9th Town Board meeting. The Town Board agreed to invite them to come to the June 9, 2022 Town Board meeting.

From- Key Bank, letter regarding Neighbors Make the Difference Day, Tuesday, June 7, 2022

From-United States Census Bureau, letter regarding participation

From-Charter Communications, letter regarding franchise fee

From-Charter Communications, several letters regarding schedule changes

From-Grant Langdon, 39 emails and letters

Supervisor Mettler states that she went back to see how many letters and emails she has received 66 letters from Mr. Langdon since our last meeting. Mr. Langdon sent the Town Board secret ballots that she will not be taking any further action on this and if anyone on the Town Board would like to, please bring it to her attention.

Supervisor's Report

This past Saturday was a good day in Copake. First, because for the first time in more than two years we were able to hold a Town Hall meeting in the Town Hall!

Second, because we finally heard about a project to rebuild the roads, sidewalks and curbs in the middle of the Copake Hamlet which has been talked about since 1998.

There was a bittersweet side to it, since we would have expected that the meeting would be led by Copake native and Columbia County Engineer Dean Knox, but had he been here I think he would have been proud of what took place.

The County was represented by Columbia County Commissioner of DPW Ray Jurkowski who just took office this past January. He was ably assisted by the engineers of GPI, the engineering firm selected by Dean Knox and hired by the County in 2020.

The goals of the project are to address drainage issues, provide for safer roads and intersections, improve pedestrians' facilities for a walkable community and provide bicycle accommodations. Toward that end the engineers plan will improve the intersection of Farm Road and Main Street by making it a T-intersection.. The intersection of County Route 7A and State Route 22 at the south entrance to Copake will also become a 90 degree turn. Finally, in the center of the Hamlet by the Clock the intersection of Empire Road and County Route 7a will become a T-intersection. The intersection of Church Street and County Route 7a will be a T-intersection. The circle will be eliminated and instead there will be in front of the Clock Tower Pub and Grill. This park will showcase the Clock and the monuments. It will also assist in drainage. The County plan does not require moving the Clock even one inch, but the consensus at the end of the meeting was that it would probably be advisable to shift the Clock a few yards into the park to protect it from traffic.

It is impossible to adequately describe all the exciting aspects of this plan, so if you did not attend the meeting you can look at the maps and sketches at the back of the room, tonight. Or you can go to the Town [website](#) to view both the [Powerpoint](#) which was shown at the presentation and a [video](#) of the entire presentation. On the website and also in the Clerk's office you can find a [Comment](#) form. Please, tell us what you think.

April 2022 Solar update from Councilperson Wolf

Last month I reported that on March 8th, Hecate filed with the NYS office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) an application for a siting permit that, if approved, would authorize Hecate to construct its 228-acre "inside-the-fence" Shepherd's Run utility-scale solar installation in Craryville.

This Board's position has been consistent: Copake is ready to do its fair share to combat climate change and support New York State in its efforts to reach its laudable carbon-reduction goals. But, as proposed, Shepherd's Run is too big for our small, rural town, and its proposed location, largely running from State Route 23 south along County Route 7, is very, very poorly sited.

Beginning when Hecate filed its first Public Information Program plan in January, 2020, we've offered to work with Hecate to come up with a proposal that would be a win-win-win: good for Copake, good for Hecate, and good for New York State. We've wanted to develop a template for developers to bring large-scale solar to towns throughout upstate, and offered to "go on the road" with Hecate to promote it. But Hecate has, time and time again, demonstrated by its actions that it is uninterested in working with the Town Board, or, for that matter, with the ad hoc Working Group that made a series of smart, environmentally-sound recommendations to improve the Shepherd's Run proposal. Indeed, one fact is now beyond debate: Hecate is motivated by corporate profits alone — not by "saving the planet", or partnering with local communities, or preserving prime farmland and forests.

Here's the proof:

As most of you are by now aware, the Working Group is comprised of both supporters and opponents of Hecate's proposal, public interest groups Columbia Land Conservancy and Scenic Hudson, volunteer landscape architects and people from Cornell University. Together, they made a series of recommendations to improve Shepherd's Run and presented them to Hecate. In response, Hecate's Project Director told The Columbia Paper, "The vast majority of the Working Group's suggestions were integrated into the Project's application/design." (The Columbia Paper, March 3, 2022, p. 3) Now I reported at the March Town Board meeting that, although we had not yet had the opportunity to carefully review Hecate's massive application submission, we suspected that the Hecate statement was untrue. Well, our suspicions were correct: the Hecate statement is demonstrably false.

Today our solar attorney filed the proof with ORES, in the form of a chart — "Working Group Recommendation Status Table". The chart summarizes our attorney's comprehensive review of the application. It presents each of the Working Group's recommendations and whether or not each was incorporated into Hecate's application. Here's what we found:

The Group's proposals include the creation of a 300-acre community-accessible green space, community gardens in buffer zones, a spur from the Rail Trail to Rheinstrom Hill, and new walking trails. Hecate commits to none of these in its application.

A proposal to compensate adjacent homeowners whose property values will plummet thanks to the thousands of solar panels Hecate intends to install directly across the road is ignored.

A proposal that Hecate not clear-cut 40 acres of trees and shrubs is ignored. This is particularly galling because forested lands capture carbon!

These are just some of the many examples demonstrating Hecate's disdain for the extensive, all-volunteer collaborative efforts of the Working Group: efforts to turn the Shepherd's Run eyesore into an asset — an attraction that the Working Group is convinced the Copake community would come to embrace.

You can and should read the analysis we filed with ORES today. It can be accessed through the following link (which will be posted on the Town's website):

<https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=21-02553&CaseSearch=Search>

By the way, our filing is consistent with what the independent Working Group has found in its review of Hecate's application.

ORES will soon make a determination as to whether Hecate's application is "complete". We are urging ORES to refrain from certifying its completeness unless and until Hecate incorporates all of the recommendations into the application.

On another note: Hecate is demonstrating its lack of transparency once again. It is refusing to disclose to our attorney Shepherd's Run capital, workforce and project costs, including estimated wages to local workers should Shepherd's Run become operational. It is unwilling to provide estimated Payments in Lieu of Taxes or Host Community Agreement payments to the taxing jurisdictions (Copake, Columbia County and the Taconic Hills School District). One wonders why Hecate is unwilling to disclose what it claims will be the important economic benefits to the area...

Separately, we have filed with ORES for funding available to Copake to proceed with the 94-c process. If granted, these funds will help defray legal and environmental engineering expenses incurred by the Town as we address Hecate's application.

Also, papers in the appeal in the litigation in which Copake is lead petitioner challenging ORES' regulations will be filed in the next few weeks.

Finally, as we await next steps in the streamlined 94-c application process, we are extremely disappointed to have heard nothing but deafening silence from Albany. There has been no response to Supervisor Mettler's letter last month to Governor Hochul imploring her to intercede in the process by supporting Home Rule and helping to fashion a solution that meets climate change challenges while protecting agriculture and rural upstate towns.

Department Heads/Committee Reports

Bob Haight of the Roads Advisory Committee states that things are starting to move along with the County and the RAC would like the Town Board to look into hiring an advisor/consultant for them for things like street lights, how far apart they should be, what kind of LED lights or solar lights, planting of trees, and what to do with the green space. The RAC would like to tie this down so that when construction does start, they will have a plan with the county. This will be a huge change to Copake and the RAC would like some professional help with this.

Supervisor Mettler asks Mr. Haight to come back to the Town Board next month with more information regarding the cost and how they should proceed.

Special Presentation-Copake Fire Department-Deputy Fire Chief, Randi Shadic and Copake Fire Department President, Harold Jensen

Councilperson Wolf introduces Deputy Fire Chief Shadic and Harold Jensen of the Copake Fire Department. For several years they have been working on getting an electric sign to provide information and emergency notifications to the community. They are seeking funding support from the town on behalf of the Copake Fire Department. A variance to permit such installation was approved in 2018. The Copake Fire Department is hoping that the Town Board will authorize the release of some of its ARPA funds for this purpose. The amount of funds that they are seeking is about \$25,000, about half of the purchase price. Councilperson has checked with the ARPA expert at New York Association of Towns and that such appropriation would be allowable under ARPA guidelines as long as the appropriation is made to the Fire District and not the Fire Department.

Deputy Fire Chief Shadic and Copake Fire Department President, Harold Jensen bring to the Town Board a request for funds possibly using ARPA funding for a new electronic communications board. Deputy Fire Chief Shadic mentions that this is not a new project this is an ongoing phase of a project that was started a few years ago. Funding and capital have become a deciding factor. Deputy Fire Chief discusses that there is new technology and with new technology there is increased cost. Deputy Fire Chief Shadic discusses the need for a communication board not only for the Fire Department side but maybe wrap into the town for important notifications to the public. At present, the Fire Department is using 30+ year old

technology which is plastic lettering on a plastic board, one message that is it. With new technology they can control multiple messages and by opening this up and sharing with the community we can benefit more than just a typical fire type of thing.

Deputy Fire Chief Shadic shares that the sign itself would essentially be the same size. The project is essentially the same except the technology has changed since acquiring the permits in 2018 and had they done this then they would probably be behind the eight ball and it would be somewhat antiquated but of course, since then the price tag has gone up.

Deputy Fire Chief Shadic mentions that this will bring us to modern technology and being that they are an emergency services organization they can tap into FEMA. They can tap into places where they can get things like AMBER alerts, emergency weather alerts and they can pop up in real time when we need them. This can help save life or property. The emergency services' has a little bit of an advantage of things where they can tie into some things that make it available to the community at large.

The Fire Department is at a point where they have a relic that is just getting older and they really want to do something about it and they would like it to be modern and be the best it could be. Other communities around Columbia County have started to do the same thing. Churchtown, Chatham, Hudson, and Livingston Fire Companies have all started to move ahead with the same concept and they would like to see Copake Fire and Copake to benefit from this same communication moving forward. The Fire District has dedicated \$10,000 of their Fire District budget money. The Fire Company has preliminarily set aside \$10,000 of their fund raising money to match the Fire District money but that leaves a deficit of \$31,000. The fire department met with two different local sign companies to make sure they have competitive proposals for this type of product. The fire department is looking for local industry that has served Columbia County. The fire department is trying to close that deficit to eventually make this happen and asks if the town has some availability to some funds that came their way that would be able to support that it would be fantastic and move them further to accomplishing their goal of having a tool that is available and this could be very beneficial to the town.

Supervisor Mettler asks what the time frame on this project is.

Deputy Fire Chief Shadic mentions that the intention is to get the installation started in the spring because it is a couple months process.

Councilperson Gansowski asks Attorney Tingley that because this is the Fire District does there have to be multiple bids on a price of something this size?

Attorney Tingley states that it is the Fire District that would be either receiving funds, then funding the project with the Fire Company rather than the town doing it directly so the Fire

District has its own board and they do their own purchasing. The town doesn't need to be involved in the purchasing.

Councilperson Gansowski mentions the NDAA which is the National Defense Authorization Act and asks Attorney Tingley that because this is telecommunications does this fall under the NDAA?

Attorney Tingley states that any entity that is going to be looking to receive federal funds either through grants or loans should be purchasing NDAA compliant equipment.

Supervisor Mettler states that the NDAA pertains to us in that the town can't buy items from China or if we do we are not eligible for federal funds.

Attorney Tingley states that generally speaking, the NDAA applies to federal agencies. They are not permitted to buy certain types of components from certain Chinese manufacturers but there is some language that prohibits recipients of federal funds through grants and loans.

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town Board would like to move on this in a positive way but after speaking with Attorney Tingley who has a little concern about how to structure this in terms of ARPA.

Attorney Tingley thinks it is appropriate for the Town Board to evidence their agreement to do this tonight maybe with a poll but thinks it should be done in a Resolution and he thinks double checking on the ARPA mechanism would be appropriate. Attorney Tingley's suggestion if the Town Board would like to move forward do a poll vote tonight to make sure the majority of the Town Board is on board and then have it ready for the next meeting.

Councilperson Wolf mentions the timing to Deputy Chief Shadic and Copake Fire President Jensen.

Copake Fire President Jensen states that it bumps everything back and they also have to get money from the Rhinestrom Foundation as well but their deadline is April 30th.

Supervisor Mettler states that to make it clear, what Attorney Tingley is concerned about is that the ARPA stuff is very technical and it has to be done the right way with recording requirements.

Supervisor Mettler asks what if the Town Board commits itself tonight but still wants to make sure it is done correctly this way the Fire Department can move forward and do it as promptly as they can.

Bob Haight mentions that with everything said, even within the next 30-60 days, a lot of the prices of pieces in this sign are going to go up and maybe holding a Special Meeting before the

next Town Board meeting will help.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf that the Copake Town Board commits to giving the Copake Fire District up to \$31,000 in order to purchase this sign.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Supervisor Mettler states that the motion has passed the Town Board will get this into writing and get it done as soon as possible.

Deputy Fire Chief Shadic mentions that they have administrative steps to follow and have to go back to the Board of Fire Commissioners and to the Fire Company for final approval of their money that they are contributing.

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town Board will get back to them regarding tying up the loose ends.

Public Forum

Lindsay LeBrecht raised her hand but did not speak.

New Business

a. Little League Projects-Ron Semp

Mr. Semp states that Little League is starting. They are practicing now and games should begin in the next two weeks. Supervisor Mettler has put Mr. Semp in touch with Stacey Hartka of United Lawn Care regarding the field maintenance so they can work closely together to make sure the fields are all up and ready to go for the games.

Mr. Semp asks the Town Board if it would be okay to reinstall a batting cage. They had one a few years back but a severe wind storm blew it over and they would like to try to install it again. They have the equipment and could certainly bring some people together to put it up. They just need permission to install it and understand where they would want to install it so it wouldn't blow over and that it is convenient to the field.

In addition to that, Mr. Semp states that there is a practice pitching mound along the fence where the campground is that is in pretty rough shape so they would like to refurbish that and build a similar one on the other baseball field along the same fence line. Mr. Semp does not believe it would take too much effort and the only town resource they would need is some spare dirt to build the mound up and they will provide the rest.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to approve the Taconic Hills Little League requests to install a batter's cage and to improve the pitchers' mounds.

All in favor. Motion approved.

b. Arrowheads-Town Historian Howard Blue

Howard Blue states that this should probably be called artifacts because in addition to arrowheads there are some other items in the collection. Mr. Blue states that it is very exciting. The Mettler's have been in Copake for a number of decades, the Langdon's have been here much longer, a couple of centuries. Mr. Blue asks how long the Mohegan Native American's been in the Roe Jan Copake area, perhaps around 8,000 years. Unfortunately, there are no written records having been lost in that time but yet, we have these artifacts. Mr. Blue then shows one of the best arrowheads made of flint. Unfortunately, many have had their points broken off. Mr. Blue states that this is a preliminary report and we will have to wait until perhaps the fall when a fuller report can be given as Mr. Blue is very much tied up in helping Mr. Fritsch with the redecoration of Town Hall. Mr. Blue states that these artifacts (at least 50 arrowheads and rocks that what their purpose was we will find out) were from a dig some years ago by Landmark Archeology Inc. and they went down deep and found these artifacts. They belonged to the owner of the land until they agreed to give them to the Town. The arrowheads condition is very fragile and few people will be able to touch them. The ones that were found in the deepest levels were the oldest ones and they can be several thousand years old. Mr. Blue has someone going through the report which is a rather sophisticated one that requires looking up some of the terms in the dictionary and that simplified version is pending. In July when things slow down with the redecoration of Town Hall, Mr. Blue will take the time to do some reading and consultation. Mr. Blue may go the Museum of Natural History if possible to get a consultation there. He may also want to extend his contact with the Stockbridge Native Americans in Mohegan Nation in their reservation in Wisconsin. They are called Stockbridge because for a while they wound up in the Berkshires. Stockbridge in the early nineteenth century was called Indian Town and there is a walking tour of the Native American part through Stockbridge which Mr. Blue intends to do and will talk about that at another time.

Supervisor Mettler asked Mr. Blue how to display these and Mr. Blue suggests that perhaps create five panels with photos of the artifacts which might be separate from the larger exhibit that Mr. Blue and Mr. Fritsch are preparing and Mr. Blue does not think those five panels should have the actual arrowheads on them but rather, be photos which makes it simpler. They are using five panels because they do not want to display all fifty of the arrowheads but there should be context given about the Native Americans who produced and used these arrowheads.

Mr. Blue also recommends that they make one panel made up of ten arrowheads which could be kept in a secure location because there is temptation for them to be touched or taken. Possibly another small panel about eight or ten inches high for use for someone to be able to take them to do a library talk or if Supervisor Mettler would take them to the County Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Blue discusses the question of storage. The arrowheads themselves should be kept in a very secure location possibly the town hall safe. The larger rocks, one of which is about 10 pounds in weight, will need some creative thinking.

Mr. Blue will report back to the Town Board in the fall.

Supervisor Mettler states that the town of Copake received a letter from Meredith J. Kane who is manager of Farmland Renewal LLC and she confirms that Farmland Renewal was donating the arrowheads and Native American Artifacts to the Town of Copake.

**TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 12 of April 14, 2022
To Accept the Gift of Arrowheads and Other
Native American Artifacts from Farmland Renewal LLC**

WHEREAS, Farmland Renewal LLC has offered to donate to the Town of Copake multiple arrowheads and other Native American artifacts located on property currently owned by Farmland Renewal LLC in the Town of Copake; and

WHEREAS, the subject arrowheads and other Native American artifacts carry important historical and educational value, particularly with respect to the Town of Copake; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Town Law § 64 (8), the Town Board of the Town of Copake has authority to accept gifts of such personal property for any public use;

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Copake desires to accept such donation and finds that the Town's acceptance of such donation serves an appropriate public use relating to the preservation and education of the history of the Town of Copake; now, therefore,

It is hereby RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby accepts with gratitude the generous donation by Farmland Renewal LLC of multiple arrowheads and other Native American artifacts.

Roll Call Vote The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution #12
Dated April 14, 2022
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.	Supervisor Mettler	yes
	Councilperson Wolf	yes
	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Judd	yes
	Councilperson Sullivan	yes

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk
(seal)
April 14, 2022

c. Sign Proposal for Peteroy

Frank Peteroy states that the Peteroy family is offering to donate approximately 1/5 acre, the property at the corner of County Route 7A and State Route 22 to the Town. They are asking the Town Board to pay \$950 to Philip Massero of Land Surveyors to pay for a survey. The Peteroys are asking the Town to waive any fees which might otherwise be incurred in the application process. Frank and Marcia Peteroy will pay the attorney's fees for a deed which will convey the property to the Town.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Judd to thank the Peteroy Family for their generous offer to convey approximately 1/5 acres to the Town of Copake and further authorize the Supervisor to negotiate and execute into a simple written agreement between the Town of Copake and the Peteroys by which the Town will agree to pay up to \$950 for a survey of the land and will waive any fees which might be incurred by the Peteroys in going before the ZBA and or Planning Board, and that the Town will pay attorney's fees in preparation of a deed for said property.

All in favor. Motion approved.

**d. Valley View Bridge-Virtual Community Meeting-sponsored by Columbia County
Department of Public Works**

Supervisor Mettler states that Columbia County has committed itself to replace the Valley View Bridge. The county has been working on this a long period of time and at a recent meeting, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to dedicate this bridge to Dean Knox. At this time Commissioner Ray Jurkowsky is handling this and he has brought to Supervisor Mettler's attention that although Dean Knox had always promised that the bridge would not be closed but with the increase of prices and supplies, if they were to leave one lane open this would add approximately \$300,000 to the overall construction cost of the project and it would add approximately two to three months to the construction schedule.

Supervisor Mettler states that Commissioner Jurkowsky has spoken with Chris Ricard, Edgar Masters, and the Copake Fire Department about this. The commissioner is suggesting that there should be a meeting of stake holders so that people that use that bridge daily will be able to voice their view. Commissioner Jurkowsky would also like to hear from representatives of the town. Commissioner Jurkowsky is calling for a meeting virtually on Thursday, April 21st at 2:00pm. Supervisor Mettler announced this for the first time tonight and it will be added to the Copake Connection and also be put on the town website.

e. Trout Unlimited Agreement-Highway Superintendent Bill Gregory

Supervisor Mettler states that this will be tabled until next month. Highway Superintendent Gregory has been in touch with Tracy Brown of Trout Unlimited. There are some issues that Highway Superintendent has brought to the attention of Attorney Tingley.

f. 2022 Copake Park Summer Program-Bryan VanTassel

Supervisor Mettler states that she met with Summer Park Director Brian VanTassel and she has written a memo to the Town Board giving an updates of the dates of the 2022 Summer Camp Program which is July 5 through August 12, 2022. Registration will start with Copake residents

first then out of towners. Supervisor Mettler supports Mr. VanTassel suggestion that the only thing that should change regarding out of town children is that last year we were charging \$300 per camper to \$175 per child or \$350 per family.

Supervisor Mettler states that the registration will open first to Copake residents and then June 4th it will open to out of town residents.

A motion was made by Councilperson Wolf and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to change the rate for out of town campers for the 2022 Summer Camp from \$300 per camper to \$175 per camper with a maximum of \$350 per family.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Supervisor Mettler states that last year the Town Board approved the camp staying open one night until 8:00pm in order to give parents “date night”. The Town Board consents to a parents night.

Supervisor Mettler states that the Summer Camp would like to do the field trips again but Mr. VanTassel anticipates that though they do not need a second bus this year, the gas prices will be more expensive. Supervisor Mettler asks the Town Board to authorize her to submit an application to Rhinestrom for up to \$7500 to pay for field trips and any other special cost to the 2022 Summer Park Program. The Town Board authorized Supervisor Mettler to do so.

g. Easter Egg Hunt

Councilperson Sullivan states that the Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 17, 2022 at 11:00am. The Park Commission is looking for volunteers to help distribute the eggs and is requesting \$350-\$400 from the Town Board for.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to authorize the Park Commission to purchase up to \$400 for candy and prizes for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 17, 2022 at 11:00am.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Councilperson Sullivan mentions to the Town Board that the Park Commission is requesting donations of Easter Baskets from the Town Board members.

h. Post Card Wall Hangings in Town Hall

Supervisor Mettler mentions the new wall hangings in the room. They are enlargements of post cards of local scenes. This display was created by Bob Callahan. Supervisor Mettler put this on the Agenda because she wanted to ask the Town Board to reimburse Bob Callahan but Bob Callahan does not want to be reimbursed. The Town Board loves them and wants to keep them.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to thank Bob Callahan for this very generous gift.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town Hall Art Committee is working very hard on the redecoration of Town Hall so that all up and down the wall there will be new historical panels. The Art Committee would like to have an "opening". Supervisor Mettler suggests that to be at the Town Board meeting in August.

Nick Fritsch Paintings

Supervisor Mettler states that Nick Fritsch has very generously offered to lend the Town of Copake two of his paintings, the First Town Meeting of 1824 and Depot (the train station at the southern entrance to Copake.)

Supervisor Mettler states that this is a loan agreement and Nick Fritsch drew up a loan agreement that Attorney Tingley added some things and made some corrections. Mr. Fritsch is prepared to sign the agreement as edited by Attorney Tingley.

Supervisor Mettler reads the Resolution.

TOWN OF COPEN

RESOLUTION Number 16 of April 14, 2022

To Authorize the Supervisor to Negotiate and Execute an Agreement for the Loan of Artwork

WHEREAS, Peter N. Fritsch has offered to lend original artwork to the Town of Copake for display in Town Hall; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Copake desires to accept such offer and to borrow such original artwork and to display same in Town Hall; now, therefore,

It is hereby **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to negotiate and execute an agreement with Peter N. Fritsch for the loan of two pieces of original artwork to the Town of Copake on terms substantially consistent with those set forth in the draft agreement attached hereto.

Roll Call Vote The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution #16
Dated April 14, 2022
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.

Supervisor Mettler	yes
Councilperson Wolf	yes
Councilperson Gansowski	yes
Councilperson Judd	yes
Councilperson Sullivan	yes

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

April 14, 2022

i. 2022 Insurance Quote and Agreement

Supervisor Mettler states that the cost of our insurance has increased by 2% largely to cover some equipment that was in correspondence from Kneller Insurance.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Judd to renew the towns insurance through our agent Kneller Insurance for April 1, 2022 through April 1, 2023.

All in favor. Motion approved.

j. Copake Cleanup Day

Supervisor Mettler that Copake Cleanup Day will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 between 8:00am and 12:00pm. The rules have been modified and masks are no longer required. Copake staff will not unload vehicle except for vehicles with handicapped tags. Town Board members are required to come that day to help with facilitating. This will be posted in the Copake Connection and on the town website.

A motion was made by Councilperson Judd and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to approve the Town of Copake Annual Cleanup Day to be held on Saturday, May 14, 2022 between 8:00am and 12:00noon.

All in favor. Motion approved.

i. Proposal for Engineering Services relative to Cold Storage Building-Councilperson Gansowski

Councilperson Gansowski states that he met with the project manager from CLP Architecture Engineering Planning firm and we would like to have the same building as Ancram minus the cupola which will save a little money. In order to do this they will have to do an engineering proposal. They will be presenting the same design as Ancram with the bid specs. They will post an advertised Public Notice for the Town of Copake, and review the bids and check the contractors to make sure they are reputable. This engineering report will cost \$35,000 and for an additional \$5,000 they will assist with watching the construction so everything is done to specs and inspections of the work and make sure everything is done correctly. The total cost for CLP Engineering firm proposal is \$40,000. Councilperson Gansowski has spoken with Highway Superintendent Gregory about this and he is very satisfied with this.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to enter into an agreement to approve the proposal from CLP Architecture Engineering Planning firm with George Schmitt as Senior Project Manager to put out to bid for the Cold Storage Building up at the Highway Department subject to the approval of Town Attorney, Jon Tingley.

All in favor. Motion approved.

j. Bids for Parking Lot

Supervisor Mettler states that the Town had asked for bids for the paving of the parking lot at

the Town Park building. The town received three responses and one of them, A. Colarusso & Sons, Inc. came in \$30,000 lower. Highway Supervisor Gregory urges the Town Board to accept that bit.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to accept the bid for the paving of the parking lot at the Copake Memorial Park from A. Colarusso & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$120,650.

All in favor. Motion approved.

k. **Grant application to Congressman Delgado's Office-Roberta Roll CEDAC**

Supervisor Mettler states that we received an email from Roberta Roll asking that she address the Town Board to ask permission to submit a grant application to Congressman Delgado's office.

Ms. Roll states that she is here on behalf of CEDAC. There is money available from the federal government from the Appropriations Committee which then comes through Congressman Delgado's office for community project funding. In the long pursuit of the Copake Spur, CEDAC thought this a good opportunity to apply for funding to do an engineering study for the crossing of the Spur at Route 22. We cannot apply for construction of the trail because we don't own the land. Ms. Roll emailed the contact person for this funding and was told yes, apply for an engineering study. It is a fairly straightforward grant application due on April 18, 2022 and CEDAC requests the Town Board's permission to apply for these funds. There is no cost to the Town of Copake.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to authorize CEDAC to submit a grant to Congressman Delgado's office for an engineering study for the crossing of Copake Spur.

All in favor. Motion approved.

l. **Dog Control Officer**

Supervisor Mettler received an email from Kyle Miller stating that he would be away from May 15 through May 24, 2022. Darrell Dutcher, the DCO for Chatham will be the emergency contact.

Attorney Tingley suggest appointing an acting Dog Control Officer.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to appoint Darrell Dutcher who is the Dog Control Officer in Chatham to serve as the Dog Control Officer while Kyle Miller is away from May 15 through May 24, 2022.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Attorney Tingley suggest long term, entering into a municipal agreement with another town

where when there DCO is away our DCO fills in and vice versa.

Old Business

a. Electric Charging Station-Jeffrey Judd

Councilperson Judd has articulated a draft RFP. This is not urgent but we never know when NYSERDA will make funds available. Councilperson Judd will be attending a seminar next Friday about incentives from the state and federal government.

b. Security Cameras-Town Park

Councilperson Gansowski states that the Town Board approved security cameras at the last Town Board Meeting but after review it was noticed that there were Chinese parts included that do not fall under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). There were several parts of the contract called High Vision which made the contract come to \$9,217.46. The new cost is \$11,767.67.

Attorney Tingley recommends that the Town Board go with the quote that is NDAA compliant.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to accept the S & F Technologies quote of \$11,767.67 which is NDAA compliant.

All in favor. Motion approved.

c. Motor Vehicle Storage Permit-Councilperson Gansowski

Councilperson Gansowski states that Jim's Auto Body is now compliant with the town. They are now working with the electric company so they can work on the Hub property.

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Supervisor Mettler to accept Jim's Auto Body's Motor Vehicle Storage Permits to the Town of Copake.

All in favor. Motion approved.

d. Update on Park Bandstand-Councilperson Sullivan

Supervisor Mettler states that the RFP that was proposed is not detailed enough and suggests that Councilperson Sullivan speak with Highway Superintendent Gregory regarding advice on this. Maybe even reach out to a contractor. Supervisor Mettler states again that an architect is not needed by the Code Enforcement Officer. A contractor can do the drawing. Councilperson Sullivan states that the Park Commission is looking for a contractor. Councilperson Gansowski suggests they reach out to Herrington's for advice on the RFP. Councilperson Sullivan will bring this back to the Park Commission.

It is Supervisor Mettler's suggestion that the bandstand not face Mountain View Road residences. It should be centralized towards the evergreens or Taconic Shores.

e. Update on Zoning Advisory Committee

Supervisor Mettler states that the Zoning Advisory Committee met and came up with recommendations for how the zoning code should be amended to accommodate dispensaries

and consumption lounges but she is waiting to hear back from Ken Dow and hopes to have something for next month.

f. Generator for Town Hall and Park Building-Councilperson Gansowski

Councilperson Gansowski states that there is nothing really happening but he has contacted Veith Electric and the Chief Engineer, Timothy Conklin is going to be getting the transfer switches brought up from Newburgh to bring up to start installing those at the sites. Though both generators are new, one was damaged in freight and they are waiting for some parts.

g. Website-Lynn Connolly

Ms. Connolly states that the Website Committee is working out a couple of last minute details before bringing to the Town Board and will be ready for the next Town Board meeting.

h. Traffic Signal-Rte. 23-Craryville-Richard Wolf

Tabled until the May Town Board meeting.

i. Short Term Rentals

Supervisor Mettler mentions that Councilperson Gansowski, Erin Reis, and herself met and then met virtually with a representative of Granicus. Granicus is a nationwide company that monitors short term rentals. They scan the various platforms and they can tell you both how many short term rentals there are in your town as well as identify the owners. In Copake right now there are 117, a year ago there were 91 short term rentals. Supervisor Mettler states that this is complicated and they will get back to the Town Board regarding this.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolutions to Transfer funds to Reserves

TOWN OF COPAKE

RESOLUTION Number 15 of April 14, 2022

To Transfer Funds to the Town of Copake Capital Improvement Reserve Fund

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake Town Board established the Town of Copake Capital Improvement Reserve Fund by resolution dated June 9, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake Town Board, in furtherance of achieving the goals established in the Town of Copake Fund Balance Policy, seeks to maintain the Town of Copake Capital Improvement Reserve Fund for purposes authorized by law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Copake desires to transfer unallocated funds in the amount of \$750,000.00 to the Town of Copake Capital Improvement Reserve Fund; now, therefore,

It is hereby **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Copake hereby authorizes and directs the transfer of funds in the amount of \$750,000.00 from the Town's unallocated fund balance to the Town of Copake Capital Improvement Reserve Fund.

Roll Call Vote The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution #15
Dated April 14, 2022
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.	Supervisor Mettler	yes
	Councilperson Wolf	yes
	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Judd	yes
	Councilperson Sullivan	yes

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)
April 14, 2022

**TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION
Number 14 of April 14, 2022
To Transfer Funds to the Town of Copake Equipment Reserve Fund**

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake Town Board established the Town of Copake Equipment Reserve Fund by resolution dated June 9, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake Town Board, in furtherance of achieving the goals established in the Town of Copake Fund Balance Policy, seeks to maintain the Town of Copake Equipment Reserve Fund for purposes authorized by law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Copake desires to transfer unallocated funds in the amount of \$150,000.00 to the Town of Copake Equipment Reserve Fund; now, therefore,

It is hereby **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Copake hereby authorizes and directs the transfer of funds in the amount of \$150,000.00 from the Town's unallocated fund balance to the Town of Copake Equipment Reserve Fund.

Roll Call Vote The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution #14
Dated April 14, 2022
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.	Supervisor Mettler	yes
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Councilperson Wolf	yes
Councilperson Gansowski	yes
Councilperson Judd	yes
Councilperson Sullivan	yes

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)
April 14, 2022

TOWN OF COPENNY

RESOLUTION

Number 13 of April 14, 2022

To Transfer Funds to the Town of Copenny Repair Reserve Fund

WHEREAS, the Town of Copenny Town Board established the Town of Copenny Repair Reserve Fund by resolution dated June 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Copenny Town Board, in furtherance of achieving the goals established in the Town of Copenny Fund Balance Policy, seeks to maintain the Town of Copenny Repair Reserve Fund for purposes authorized by law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Copenny desires to transfer unallocated funds in the amount of \$300,000.00 to the Town of Copenny Repair Reserve Fund; now, therefore,

It is hereby **RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Copenny hereby authorizes and directs the transfer of funds in the amount of \$300,000.00 from the Town's unallocated fund balance to the Town of Copenny Repair Reserve Fund.

Roll Call Vote The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution #13
Dated April 14, 2022
Copenny, New York

Roll Call Vote.	Supervisor Mettler	yes
	Councilperson Wolf	yes
	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Judd	yes
	Councilperson Sullivan	yes

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

April 14, 2022

TOWN OF COPAKE
RESOLUTION Number 11 of April 14, 2022
RESOLUTION REGARDING NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act: H.R. 4677

WHEREAS, The NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act, is a unique federal investment program to authorize \$50 million of federal funds to protect and restore all watersheds, including the Hudson River Watershed, that flow into New York-New Jersey Harbor and

WHEREAS, The Act has unanimous support among the Hudson Valley's Congressional delegation, including the support of Congressman Antonio Delgado; and,

WHEREAS, the Act would provide benefits to diverse stakeholders such as the protection of fisheries and wildlife, conservation of natural resources and public and private lands, critical urban greenspaces, ocean and coastal resources, and various opportunities to improve the quality of life for community members throughout the region; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake is situated within the Hudson River Watershed and the proposed NY-NJ Watershed Act will provide enormous economic and environmental benefits locally, regionally and nationally; and

WHEREAS, watersheds provide drinking water, tourism and outdoor recreation, economic opportunities, as well as sustain fisheries, critical wildlife and provide vital infrastructure from flooding and rising sea levels; and

WHEREAS, the Act would provide matching funds to achieve the goals of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program, a state program that has greatly benefitted Hudson Valley communities; and

WHEREAS, the Act would fund shoreline management and restoration within the watersheds,

WHEREAS, this Act would direct the Secretary of the Interior to enhance collaboration and coordinate restoration activities at all levels of government to protect fish and wildlife habitats, endangered species, improve water quality, increase public access to the estuary, mitigate flood risks, and develop public outreach and educational activities; and

WHEREAS, many residents of the region of the NY-NJ Watershed live in communities lacking environmental justice, where access to and enjoyment of fish, wildlife, clean water, and other natural resources have been impaired or compromised, federal funding is necessary to mitigate these long overdue environmental and social issues; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Copake would benefit from the Act as it would establish beneficial programs and award grants to help fund valuable restoration projects in our local community;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the TOWN OF COPAKE

supports the passing of the NY-NJ Watershed Protection Act.

Roll Call Vote The foregoing Resolution, offered by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf, was duly put to a roll call vote as follows:

Resolution #11
Dated April 14, 2022
Copake, New York

Roll Call Vote.	Supervisor Mettler	yes
	Councilperson Wolf	yes
	Councilperson Gansowski	yes
	Councilperson Judd	yes
	Councilperson Sullivan	yes

Lynn M. Connolly, Town Clerk

(seal)

Appointments

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Wolf to nominate Cara Boyle to serve as Copake's representative on the Columbia County Environmental Management Council.

All in favor. Motion approved.

The Town Board has appointed Cara Boyle to the Columbia County Environmental Management Council.

Budget Transfers/Reclassifications

A motion was made by Councilperson Gansowski and seconded by Councilperson Sullivan to approve the preliminary budget to actual report for the month of March 2022 and to approve that it is posted as final on the town website.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Councilpersons' Reports

Councilperson Sullivan reports that the Park Commission needs petty cash for the Easter Egg Hunt. Supervisor Mettler has already spoken with Park Chair Gaston about this. Councilperson Sullivan will follow up with the Park Commission regarding the RFP for the bandstand. The Park Commission is looking for a few more sponsors for the Music in the Park program. Councilperson Sullivan brings to the Town Board a request for memorial bricks to be sold as an additional fund raiser for the park. Next Generation signs has a cost of \$25 per brick. They are the only company that works with the bricks. They would be sold as a park fundraiser for \$50. People have been recently asked about these memorial bricks and the Park Commission would like to do this again. Councilperson Sullivan asks the question of

would the proceeds come back to the Park Commission. The Town Board all agree that the proceeds should go to the Park Commission.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mettler and seconded by Councilperson Gansowski to approve the Memorial Bricks Project being put together by the Copake Park Commission and any profit from that should be retained by the Park Commission.

All in favor. Motion approved.

Councilperson Judd reports from the Planning Board that Sal Casino wants to get into the marijuana business.

Councilperson Judd reports that regarding the audit, he looked at the ZBA, the Planning Board, the Building Department, Summer Music, Summer Camp, and Park Rentals and with the raw materials he had to work with was the internal documents, ledgers, deposit slips, and bank statements. Everything was in order to the penny with a possible exception to the ZBA where there is \$40 that he can't find possibly because of a late deposit last year. A written report will follow.

Councilperson Wolf reports that CEDAC met yesterday and there is a vacancy and they would like to advertise for the position. Councilperson Wolf states that the topic of short term rentals is coming up more and more a topic of conversation at the CEDAC meetings. Also mentioned at CEDAC was the three town affordable housing business. CEDAC announced that the Bash Bish bike shop is now open.

Councilperson Wolf reports that the next RAC meeting is April 21, 2022.

Councilperson Gansowski reports that the ZBA is busy but not as busy as last year this time.

Councilperson Gansowski reports that he is working with the Code Enforcement Officer and the Gellert house over on Copake Lake is getting cleaned up. They had a court date and they will be back in court at the end of April. If it is not cleaned up to the satisfaction of Mr. Gellert, the tenant will be evicted.

Councilperson Gansowski mentions that there was a report from the Assessor that things are being caught up and brought in on a timely basis.

Public Forum

Lindsay LeBrecht mentions that she doesn't know why she wasn't able to get in earlier.

Ms. LeBrecht is totally supportive of any volunteer fire department but is concerned of the people near Craryville. What is going to happen if there is an emergency and if there is no electricity, there are no phones or internet and how is the rest of the people not in the Copake Fire District going to be apprised of this.

Councilperson Sullivan states that she is trying to get together a group of people including Deputy Fire Chief Shadic to get some kind of relay or emergency contact list and she is going to call on Ms. LeBrecht or somebody from Copake Lake to participate in that group. They are working on it but it is slow going.

Councilperson Gansowski mentions that he called Marilyn to check on the lights and was told they are looking at the month of June.

Approval of Bills

Supervisor Mettler states that the bills have been audited, signed, and sent out.

Next Meeting Date

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Executive Session

None

Adjournment

All in favor. Motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Connolly
Town Clerk

