



**Town of Copake**

## **Economic Development Advisory Committee**

June 8, 2023

Via Email

Copake Town Board  
Copake Town Clerk

During our June meeting yesterday, the Committee discussed two items which we wish to bring to the Town Board for consideration:

1. New York Forward Application - We recommend that the Town reapply for this New York State grant program during the 2023-2024 budget cycle. The Town's previous application has identified a number of projects, the funding for which, would be very beneficial to the Town. We also recommend that the Town engage again with River Street Planning & Development. Margaret Irwin, Principal, has in-depth knowledge of our Town and our projects, which allows for an efficient and cost effective process, and we believe her fees are reasonable.

2. Copake Pickleball Tournament - In the interests of further highlighting Copake as a destination for recreation, and attracting interest in our area, the Committee is considering organizing a weekend Pickleball Tournament on September 9-10, 2023 at the Copake Memorial Park. We hope to build on the model of the Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour as a way to build local interest and activities, and bring folks to the town's center to support our businesses in a fun and healthy event. The event would also showcase the Town's new pickleball court improvements. This event will be self-funded through donations and sponsorships, and we are not requesting any financial support from the Town, except for access to Copake Memorial Park. We also ask that this be endorsed as a "Town sponsored event" so that the organizers are protected under the Town's general liability insurance policy. (Attached is a short description of the event from Bill Boris-Schacter, who is the CEDAC member leading this initiative.)

Respectfully submitted ,  
Tom Goldsworthy, Chair

The Copake Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC)'s mission is to promote sustainable economic development in the Town of Copake by encouraging and supporting existing businesses and attracting new business opportunities to the Town. It advocates for and balances the needs of residents, business owners, environmental sustainability, quality of life, and public works. The CEDAC is an advisory committee to the Town Board and makes recommendations for strategies which would contribute to the economic vitality of the Town of Copake.

TOWN OF COPAKE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
230 Mountain View Road, Copake, NY 12516-1204 [cedac@townofcopake.org](mailto:cedac@townofcopake.org)

TO: COPAKE TOWN BOARD

RE: PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT PROPOSAL

DATE: 6/8/2023

CEDAC has been researching the possibility of holding a Pickleball tournament centered around the new pickleball courts being constructed by the town in Copake Town Park. Our tentative title for this competition is: "Copake Picklemania."

The purpose of this tournament would be to bring a wide swath of community members to the area and introduce them to Copake, the park, the businesses in the area and the Hamlet as a whole. It would also provide a community-building, social activity that can be enjoyed by the players, their friends and family members, as well as the entire community.

After conducting the research, we propose the following parameters:

- 1) Date: September 9 & 10. A Saturday and Sunday. The competition will take place over two days between 10am and 5pm but ending on Saturday by 4:30pm so as not to conflict with the Grange's Ice Cream Social.
- 2) Place: Primarily Copake Town Park with possible additional site being Taconic Hills Regional School (which would also serve as an indoor, weather contingency location)
- 3) The competition would be open for registration to all Columbia and Berkshire County residents in order to attract a wide group of participants, however, we plan to limit this first year's player numbers to 64 teams totaling no more than 128 contestants. There will be no limitation on age or gender, but there will be a small fee to enter the competition to ensure the competition is taken seriously.
- 4) We are planning to have a long lunch break each day that encourages people to wander the Hamlet. We may also have food available at the Park via a Food Truck or a local business participation.

We plan on making it a self-funding event and so are not requesting any money from the Town.

We are requesting that the Town sanction the event, in order to be covered by the Town's insurance policy.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Boris-Schacter  
CEDAC member