

Michael Yevoli
Director Capital Region Economic Development Council
433 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli,

My husband and I moved to Copake NY barely two months before the word Covid was invented. When the pandemic finally lifted, we were amazed at all the level of communal good will and energy we found in what we thought was a sleepy, very charming, rural town.

After the lockdown ended, I joined The Copake Grange in search of fellowship, and to look for ways in which to contribute to life in Copake. I quickly found opportunities to both explore and participate in my new community through the many Grange programs. An unanticipated and delightful surprise was the discovery of the lively interest in activities such as the monthly Open Mics in the lovely small Grange Theater, which also hosts concerts and productions that help keep up the budget needed to maintain and improve our historical building. The Forward Grant would go a long way towards easing ongoing building repairs costs, and free us up to increase our community outreach and participatory programs.

Additionally, improving and beautifying the town of Copake with sidewalks and sidewalk repairs would benefit both locals and tourists. We have many local farms that, with a bit of help, could contribute much in terms of food outreach and farm market presence, and many businesses that would also benefit from further town development and improvements.

I could go on, but I will stop now to thank you for your attention!

Sincerely,
Ann Strohmeier

Michael Yevoli, Director
Capital Region Economic Development

Dear Michael Yevoli

I am writing in support of the application at NY Forward/Town of Copake.

I have been a resident of the Copake area since 1979 and have enjoyed its gifts and enjoyed its amazing growth over these decades.

The town supports the participation of both part timers, and new and decades old full timers . It offers a variety of interests and programs for the most active to the most relaxed resident and visitor. Its natural beauty surrounds and stimulates interest in Nature as well as the sports of ball games, bike riding, water activities. The local library which supports the Town has non stop activities from tots to the Octagon group of over 80 yrs.

To reflect the energizing of the Town, the local Copake Grange has become the place to go for music, farm table dinners, and active Service to the local Food Pantry and Emergency Closet at the Taconic Hills School.

The Town of Copake has become a destination point for visitors as well as a hub for its residents. It's vital to give support to such a forward thinking leadership and support the NY Forward project.

I whole heartedly endorse the project
Elayne M. Dix

September 20, 2023
Michael Yevoli, Director
Capital Region Economic Development Council
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180.

Dear Mr. Yevoli,

I write to support the Copake Downtown application to the NY Forward program. I have lived in the Copake/Hillsdale/Ancram community of Columbia County since 1990, visiting the region since 1976. I am former Executive Director of Columbia County Council on the Arts, 2002-08, funded by New York State Council on the Arts to insure that all of Columbia County's 67000 residents received the same access to the arts. For most of that period, we were also funded by I LOVE NY and New York State Tourism for the *Art in a Landscape, the Sculpture & Nature Tour*, linking public sculpture gardens from North Adams, Massachusetts to Socrates Sculpture Park in New York City. We were also funded to manage the Hudson Valley Arts Education Roundtable, to coordinate art education efforts in 7 counties of the Hudson Valley. From 2008 - 16 I was Executive Director of the Clemente Soto Véllez Cultural and Educational Center in Manhattan, which received New York State Regional Economic Council funding to link Lower East Side (Manhattan) for-profit and not-for-profit organizations with local youth for permanent and long-range job training. I was later a panelist for REDC, reviewing applications from throughout New York State for projects very closely related to the NY Forward program.

Copake is unusual. It has achieved the near-miracle of erasing the divide between people in the community for generations, and those more recently arrived, mostly from New York City. This resulted in an exciting place to live, where farmers, seniors, environmentalists, traditional artists, avant-garde artists, Indian Americans, LGBTQ people (even in town leadership positions), seniors, historic preservationists, and so many other people are welcomed. The Copake Grange is unique in providing a home for EVERYONE willing to contribute to the healthy development of community, a rare commodity in the rugged individualist mentality which can sometimes dominate the national character. In fact, later today, I will visit the vibrant, inclusive community library there for a reading by a local 98-year-old doctor and memoirist, then dine at the

Indian-American run Clock Tower pub. I'll get my eggs from the visionary Empire Farm with its honor-system roadside stand. And I forward this letter through a friend who is a community activist, yoga teacher, and founder of the community-run, vitally needed local grocery store.

This community is ripe for support of this vision, which it is vitally and inclusively realizing.

Your questions are welcomed, at

Jan Hanvik (he/him)

Founder/Director Crossing Bridges LLC (NYS)/Puentes y Redes S.C.
(Mexico)

255 Poole Hill Road

Ancram NY 12502 347 393 4257 janhanvik1@gmail.com

www.crossingbridges.nyc

Lori Bodinizzo
2260 CR-7
Copake, NY 12516
nycnriley@gmail.com

Dear Michael Yevoli and Capital Region Development Council,

I am writing a letter of support for NYS NY Forward Program funding to revitalize and improve the lovely Hamlet of Copake, New York. Our town of Copake is the perfect town for revitalization. We have many tourists that visit the famous rail trail for biking, Bash Bish Falls for hiking, the historic Copake iron works with well preserved furnace from 1860. The iron works was a hub of community and business until 1888, and the original quarry is currently the ore pit. Which is a great for a day of swimming. We have the wonderful Copake Grange which is a hub of community support, outreach, theater, fund raising, and the arts and carries the original spirit of the farming community that established it in 1902. We have many local farms like Empire farm with their wonderful farm store, great farm to table events, and the founders of Farm On.

Which created the Milk Money program where they've partnered with Hudson Valley Fresh Dairy to provide fresh, subsidized, quality milk to over 25,000 students. This is just one of many farms in Copake that are keeping the strong tradition of farming, community and fresh, wholesome food. If we were able to expand our downtown we could offer more options for the many tourist we have visiting the falls, ore pit and rail trail. And offer more employment opportunities for locals and support our local farming community. We are often a location people drive through to get to the Berkshires but with the revitalization funding Copake could be a destination!

Copake is becoming a sought after place and is growing every year. It is ripe to be a Farm and Food Hub. Small businesses like The Copake General store which sell local produce, products and meats from local farms are growing and families are moving in Copake must develop to accommodate the growth and to fulfill its potential to be the best town in Columbia County to live and work. The funding and implementation of

this plan will attract tourists, business and families to the area and improve the quality of life for all of the residents of Copake.

Copake is the perfect place to invest the 4.5 million dollars. The residents are organized, and committed to the betterment of the community. The Town Board submitted a detailed plan to activate the downtown, create housing and employment, attract diverse populations, bring new shopping, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create public spaces for arts and cultural events . The town is organized, prepared and has good leadership. There is also overwhelmingly positive community support for this plan. Check out the details again at: copakewaterfronts.com

I ask you to nominate and choose Copake for the 4.5 million dollar award so that we can become a magnet for growth, opportunity and quality of life. We are ready to become better and accommodate our prosperity.

Sincerely,

Lori Bodinizzo
Resident of Copake

Nicole Riley
2260 CR-7
Copake, NY 12516
nycnriley@gmail.com

Dear Michael Yevoli and Capital Region Development Council,

I am writing a letter of support for NYS NY Forward Program funding to revitalize and improve the lovely Hamlet of Copake, New York.

My wife and I have lived here for three years and it is a truly magical place. The beauty is astounding. As a gay couple we are welcomed by our neighbors. (This is not always the case when you get outside of NYC.) Here in Copake there are farms, lakes, rivers, wildlife, birding, bike trails, Copake Falls, history, the quarry, golf course, camps, and small business, all of which make this place the best kept secret in the Hudson Valley.

We are constantly discovering new and exciting things about this place. All of our visitors can't get over the beauty and the location right between NYC and Boston. They always want to know how we found Copake and ask when they can come back for another visit.

Copake is becoming a sought after place and is growing every year. It is ripe to be a Farm and Food Hub. Small businesses are growing and families are moving in. Copake must develop to accommodate the growth and to fulfill its potential to be the best town in Columbia County to live and work. The funding and implementation of this plan will attract tourists, business and families to the area and improve the quality of life for all of the residents of Copake.

Copake is the perfect place to invest the 4.5 million dollars. The residents are organized, and committed to the betterment of the community. The Town Board submitted a detailed plan to activate the downtown, create housing and employment, attract diverse populations, bring new shopping, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and create public spaces for arts and cultural events . The town is organized,

prepared and has good leadership. There is also overwhelmingly positive community support for this plan. Check out the details again at: copakewaterfronts.com

I ask you to nominate and choose Copake for the 4.5 million dollar award so that we can become a magnet for growth, opportunity and quality of life. We are ready to become better and accommodate our prosperity.

Sincerely,

Nicole Riley
Resident of Copake

September 18, 2023

Michael Yevoli, Director

Capital Region Economic Development Council

433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180.

Greetings:

I am writing this letter in support of Copake's grant application for the New York Forward.

I was introduced to Copake in 1971 when I started visiting my College friend who lived in Copake Falls. Together we would bike through this magnificent Roe Jan Community. Through the subsequent years, I continued to visit and when I was set to retire, I knew I needed to become a resident of Copake.

And so, in late 2016, I moved into my new home here in Copake. Each day I feel so lucky to have made that decision as I simply adore this community. I have never lived someplace that has brought me more joy.

Early on, I joined Copake Grange #935, when it began its resurgence after years of dwindling membership. I am now a very active Grange member and head up the Friends of Copake Grange #935, which is the 501 (c) 3 fundraising component of the Grange. I am aware of how desperate our historic landmark building, Grange Hall, needs extensive rehabilitation, repair, and restoration. While we have been steadily applying for, and receiving grant funding for this purpose, it is far short of the financial

need to accomplish this goal.

Grange Hall has steadily increased its program offerings to the community, and we have become known for the quality performances and events held here. Our building is in more use now than in decades, which makes the need for renovations even more urgent. And our Grange Hall is just a microcosm of the entire Hamlet of Copake.

The Copake community has increasingly become a lively and vibrant group of people who care about their environment, their neighbors, and their hometown. But, in driving around the Hamlet, this vibrancy is hardly expressed in what one sees in the buildings and road. To an outsider, the Hamlet of Copake is a "sleepy", and rather run down little former farm town that is just a place to stop to get gas, or to pass through to get to another destination. An award to Copake from NY Forward would allow us to repair structures, create more space for people to comfortably visit our Hamlet, shop, and enjoy this "Land of Rural Charm" while helping us to grow our economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Veronica McTiernan
32 Viewmont Road
Copake, NY 12516
(518) 329 0191

September 18, 2023

Mr. Michael Yevoli, Director Capital
Region Economic Development Council
433 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli:

I am writing to support the 2023 proposal of the Town of Copake under the current NY Forward Program to revitalize its central hamlet as well as other areas within the Town. I have been a resident of Copake since 1994. Currently I am Secretary of the Friends of Copake Grange #935, a Board member and a member of its Fund-Raising Committee, as well as a member of Copake Grange, #935. The Grange recently increased its membership to about 140 from a low of 6 seven years ago.

Previously I was active with various Copake Town committees and continue to be an active volunteer and supporter of the Roeliff-Jansen Community Library.

The Friends of Copake Grange has successfully obtained a number of grants to restore and revitalize the Grange building--located at the center of the Hamlet. Because the Grange building is almost 125 years old, it needs extensive work. The Friends also conducts a number of fund-raising activities for member and community programs.

We can only do so much without the help of significant funding from NY Forward. Because the Town is two hundred years old, it is evident that costly improvements must be made to the our infrastructure, to neglected outdoor spaces, and to recreational spaces. No doubt, our plans will enhance Town and regional economics and employment.

Copake is a community where much of its operations and activities are supported by volunteers, whether for Town activities or community organizations such as the Grange and the Library. This demonstrates how much Town residents will step up to ensure that use of NY Forward funds will be successful.

Thank you for this opportunity to support this project.

Paulette Bonanno
1212 County Route 27A
Copake, New York 12516

Michael Yevoli, Director

Capital Region Economic Development Council

433 River Street

Troy, New York 12180

September 18, 2023

Dear Sir,

We are writing this letter to support the Town of Copake's grant application for the NY Forward Program.

More than 20 years ago we moved to Copake and selected a home that was in walking distance to the downtown hamlet. During these 20 years we have witnessed several advances in the hamlet including the revitalization of the Copake General Store, the rebuilding of the Clock Tower building and the change in ownership of both Dad's diner and Church Street Deli.

In addition the two local banks are thriving and the drug store has been replaced by a terrific wine store. We have had floods (Hurricane Irene) and local Tornados where a state of emergency was declared and many trees were downed. Throughout all of the weather changes and retail turnover the town has thrived and now is on the verge of becoming a dream location. Real estate values are increasing and the town is engaged in many activities to enhance the lives of its residents.

We need this grant and hope that your office will recognize the tremendous benefits that could be provided to the town if awarded this grant.

Please consider strongly our application for this grant. As 20 year Copakians we sincerely hope you will fund our request.

Sincerely yours

Alan and Kathy Friedman

September 18, 2023

Michael Yevoli, Director
Capital Region Economic Development Council
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180

Re: NEW YORK STATE'S NY FORWARD PROGRAM

The town of Copake is deserving of this grant. We, and others we know, have chosen to settle here because it is a warm, supportive community. The natural wonders we enjoy and the start of improvements made to our downtown make Copake even more appealing than it was over 10 years ago when we purchased our home.

A small business fund will capture many more small businesses and advance the reuse of vacant buildings for commercial and residential use including multiple projects to create sorely needed affordable housing. Copake's agricultural roots are alive today, and initiatives focused on local food and agriculture will not only enrich the lives of locals and provide job opportunities but will also make our town even more attractive to visitors. The Copake spur of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail will bring bicycling enthusiasts from all over.

As a member of the Copake Grange #935, I have seen how this community comes together to actively support those in need, support our local students and to encourage participation of residents.

I encourage you to help Copake continue to grow - we all benefit from the improvements that this grant will finance.

Sincerely,
Madeline Silverman
51 Miles Road
Copake Falls, NY

TO: Michael Yevoli, Director Capital Region Economic Development Council
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180.

My husband and I are Grange members and supporters and think the NY Forward Grant would be a wonderful thing for Copake. The Grange is an historic building built in 1901 and needs many updates. We have managed to install a new furnace and well pump just this year. But new windows are needed and updates to the kitchen, which is used by local food preparers.

The town itself could use a more walkable downtown and more parking.

We have an involved community that is actively trying to make Copake a better place to work and live and visit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Noel and Albert Fair town residents and grange members

September 16, 2023

Mr. Michael Yevoli, Director
Capital Region Economic Development Council
433 River St.
Troy, NY 12180

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a member of Copake Grange #935, the most important community entity in downtown Copake, NY. The Grange has existed since 1903 as a center for agricultural advocacy, community service, entertainment and more. Our aging facility is kept in working order through small grants and donations from Grange members, with emergency repairs often done by local volunteers. Despite our best efforts, the building needs major restoration to improve safety and maximize its use by the community. Raising sufficient funds for upgrades, including window replacement, painting, installation of safety systems, and more, is beyond the means of members alone.

In recent years, the Grange has become the heart and soul of Copake – a place for education, celebration, and camaraderie, with membership doubling to nearly 150 in the past 18 months. Our Open Mic nights, square dances and cupcake celebrations draw hundreds of people from the surrounding area to gather, laugh and share the diverse experiences we offer. Grass roots efforts to revitalize the Grange in the past five years have contributed significantly to Copake on the map as an inviting destination.

Copake would benefit enormously through the restoration and enhancement of Grange Hall, along with numerous other well-designed plans that would raise the spirit and recognition of our proud, historic hamlet by increasing business, tourism, and the overall quality of life. We look forward to offering even more.

Other towns in our region may have significant charm and interest, but in my mind, none holds the potential or relevance that the Copake, and none is more deserving of NY State's consideration for support and the opportunity to move it forward.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rita Jakubowski
304 Snyder Pond Rd.

Dear Mr Yevoli,
Director Capitol Region Economic Development Council

After being invited to take part in a chili tasting contest at the Grange this past winter, I became a member. I was impressed by people who are active believers in community and making this world a better place.

Activities abound. Something is happening at the Grange most weekends from chili tasting contests to jazz concerts. It is a welcoming and vibrant place, embracing all, the newcomer to the region and the person whose ancestors grew up here. It is a great addition to Copake and it will only get better with additional funding.

Sincerely,
Hannah Letterman Mandel
1110 county Rt 7A

To: Michael Yevoli, Director
Capital Region Economic Development Council
433 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli,

Copake would be a wonderful choice for downtown revitalization. It is in a beautiful area which attracts many second homeowners and tourists. A very nice balance with the local residents.

The community offers access to a wonderful library, a bicycle trail, lakes for summer and winter recreation, hiking trails, skiing and zip lines. The town features very nice restaurants (Dad's Copake Diner, Church Street Deli and the Clock Tower Pub and Restaurant) and best of all -- The Copake Grange which offers all kinds of entertainment - plays, dances, open-mic night, plant sales, a cupcake fund raiser, etc. etc.

I hope you will give Copake serious consideration. It is THE CENTER to access to all of the above.

Sprucing up would make us very proud and happy.

Lois Lovisolo
71 Island Drive
Copake, NY 12516

Mike Yevoli, Director
Capital Region Economic Development Council
433 River St.
Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli,

I have been a citizen of Copake since 1991 and, over the years, have become very involved in the workings and activities of the town. Currently, I serve on the Economic Advisory Development Committee and am president of the Copake Grange.

Our application to NY Forward this year marks the third time Copake has applied for the DRI and NY Forward programs. We have grown slowly but steadily in the last several years and have seen a huge influx of people since the pandemic. With that influx has come a surge of interest in historic preservation, new business and sustainable farming, as well as people who want to become involved in the civic and community life of the town.

The Grange is an outstanding example of an institution which has undergone a kind of renaissance in the past few years. We have had a huge increase in membership, doubling in the past year and a half. Music and theatre events, workshops, open mic nights, square dances, talks and community dinners draw a diverse group of people. Our events attract people to town and create a place for camaraderie, learning and fun for both children and adults. In order to continue into the future, the Grange needs help. The building itself is 120 years old and in dire need of repair and restoration. Although generous members contribute time and talent to the maintenance and repair of the building, the major repairs cannot be done without a great deal of monetary assistance.

Copake's long-awaited road reconstruction in the hamlet will begin construction in 2024. This is an important step in the revitalization of the town. Walkable, safe roads and sidewalks and aesthetically pleasing green spaces will attract visitors and vastly improve the quality of life for citizens. Funds from NY Forward will make it possible to complete walking paths, sidewalks and other links between the various businesses and institutions in town.

The exciting element in our NY Forward application this year is the unexpected interest in creating new businesses in Copake. This is a relatively new development and there seems to be a great deal of momentum, dedication, and true talent behind the ideas. There are proposals for four food and beverage business, as well as a sustainable farming supply and education business that are being proposed. The business owners are smart, experienced and committed to Copake; they just need the extra funds to make their dreams realities. They will bring a whole new level of vitality to the town, contributing to sustainable growth and overall quality of life in the town and the Roe Jan area.

These business deserve a chance to thrive, to grow, to spark a renewal of life in Copake. We are hopeful that Copake will be awarded a grant this year. Copake deserves this chance to move forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roberta Roll

September 22 2023

Michael Yevoli,
Director Capital Region Economic Development Council
433 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

RE: Copake NY Forward Grant Application

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you to give my support to the Town of Copake NY. For this letter I will keep it focused on a few important areas. My husband and I and dog have lived in Copake for over 20 years. We have seen the modest growth in our beautiful small town, such as: Copake Wine Works, Copake General Store with the newest owner, the growth of Farm On! and a few other establishments. However, in order to grow our town to attract new businesses and grow current businesses we need the grant that we have applied for.

Copake Grange Rehab • FarmOn Accommodation • Hamlet Hound Canned Cocktails • Deep Roots Farm - Farm Store • Deep Roots Farm - Farmworker Housing • Kiernan's Dairy Store • So Co Grow – Farm Services Business

To me, one of the important projects is the Copake Grange Rehab. I am a member of this non-partisan community center. The Grange has programming but can be expanded with a building rehab. The building is in desperate need of an upgrade. We are currently doing what we can to keep the building and to have programs including Open Mic Night (once a month), music on special occasions; one my favorite program is the Ice Cream Social and square dance.

In addition, we need to create new opportunities for employment and housing. This grant would be a major driving force to accomplish this goal. The residents of Copake are committed to making Copake better. Our community has many volunteers that work very hard on various projects.

Please consider Copake's application!

Sincerely,

Linda Senk
98 Julianna Drive, Copake NY 12516

Leonard Barham
270 Sky Farm Road
Copake NY 12516
lenbarham@yahoo.com

Mike Yevoli, Director
Capital Region Economic Development Council
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli,

I am writing in support of the application for a NY Forward grant for the Town of Copake. As it is about to celebrate its bicentennial, the Copake Hamlet is both vibrant and contemporary while being situated in a stunning rural setting. It is the center of both cultural activities, with the Grange, The RoeJan Historical Society and the RoeJan Community Library, and a rich array of recreational pursuits, including cycling, hiking, tennis, golf, boating, and more. The town has recently made successful efforts in improving its infrastructure, attracting and developing new businesses, and expanding services to its growing population. Although Copake has accomplished a great deal, a NY Forward grant would provide the assistance necessary to allow the town to expand, grow and flourish as it enters its third century.

Very truly yours,



Leonard Barham

From desk of
Frederique Abramovici
Member and Friend of the Copake Grange in NY
babbi@fairpoint.net

Addressed to:
Capital Region Economic
Development Council (CREDC)
- Mike Yevoli, Director -
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180

Director Mike Yevoli,

Copake, NY deserves to be included in the **NEW YORK FORWARD** Program.

The **COPAKE GRANGE** is a Vital Community Force with an energetic big heart. The building that holds the Copake Grange needs to be included in this Opportunity for valuable funds for Revitalization. This boost would invigorate the morale of all inside who are busy year round:

- helping young ones by providing valuable instruments for their studies, including grants,
- providing space for private functions,
- giving folks of all ages a place to belong with dances, movie presentations, etc.,
- expanding minds and talents, thru Open Mic, which delights the community for free.

All this and more with the help of genuinely caring people.

Thank you 'Capital Region Economic Development Council' for your gracious consideration, for a well deserved grant.

Sincerely,
FA

Capital Region Economic
Development Council (CREDC)
Mike Yevoli, Director
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mike,

I am writing to tell you of our support & excitement for the **Copake Downtown Projects Proposal** to the **2022 New York Forward (NYF) Program**. The Town & Hamlet of Copake has seen a very large growth in general business activity and tourism over the past decade. This was pushed even further with the continuing increase in year-round & seasonal residents, large increase in local home ownership & year-round remote work in the past 3 years.

This high level of business, residence & tourist activity is great to see. To really cement the pulsing vibrancy of Copake we need to make coordinated & strategic improvements in public infrastructure, recreational resources & destinations, and arts & culture venues.

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for refurbishment & improvement of the historic Grange Hall building of Copake Grange #935 as key part of Copake's proposal. This facility is already in use as a centrally located and desirable meeting space, rentable event space, rentable kitchen space, and provides the only proscenium stage theater space in the area. Although the Copake Grange Hall is today providing vital and desperately needed arts & culture, meeting, and commercial kitchen space, the Grange Hall has all the problems of any 120 year old building, plus some "built-in" deficiencies that result in most cases from what the Grange Hall was envisioned being used for when built in the early 1900's versus the many uses it supports in today's busy Town of Copake.

We have been deeply involved in the development of the Grange Hall as an arts & culture "go to" venue and in bringing mainstage theater as well as single-night events to the Grange Hall's proscenium stage. This evolved into our involvement in the Grange Hall building improvements over the past 3 years, including a longer-range strategic building improvement plan for the Hall. The improvements to the Grange Hall of Copake Grange #935 that are incorporated into the **Copake Downtown Projects Proposal** to the **2022 New York Forward (NYF) Program** are rooted in this strategic improvement plan and if awarded will greatly accelerate the steady but slow pace of improvements at the Copake Grange #935's historic Grange Hall with benefits including:

- Enhancing an already active space for arts and cultural events that serves the existing members of the community but also draw in attendees from around the region.
- Supporting & strengthening the Grange Hall's place in the cultural and historic fabric of Copake community life.

The Grange Hall was, is, and can even more so in the future be a key cultural & historic asset that enhances the feeling of small-town charm that draw residents and tourists to the Town of Copake. This is why it is an important element in the **Copake Downtown Projects Proposal** to the **2022 New York Forward (NYF) Program**.

Sincerely,

Stephen Sanborn & Constance Lopez

2254 County Route 7, Copake NY. 12516

Mr. Mike Yevoli, Director
Capital Region Economic
Development Council (CREDC)
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli,

As a member of the Copake Grange I have been delighted by the community spirit that the Grange has fostered. This is a letter of support for Copake and the Grange being a recipient of the proposed grant. It is important to us that the Hamlet and Grange Hall be revitalized.

Thank you for your consideration.

Angela Darling
Boston Corners

Angela Darling
Assistant Director
Center for American Studies
(212) 854-6698

38 Birch Road
Copake, NY 12516

Capital Region Economic
Development Council (CREDC)
Mike Yevoli, Director
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli:

We are writing to urge you support the Town of Copake's 2022 NY Forward proposal and recommend Copake for one of the awards.

We have been residents of Copake for the past eleven years, first as part time residents and now as fulltime homeowners. We've chosen Copake as our home town because of its natural beauty, tranquility, recreational access, and friendly people.

While Copake is a small town, it has so much to offer. Members of our family have participated in and enjoyed a wealth of activities such as golf, swimming, kayaking, hiking, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, local theater, library programs, Grange events, and shopping for local healthy foods at the various farms and farmers' market.

The town has attracted several businesses over the years, including a new general store, wine shop, pub and grill, modern gas station and convenience store. Copake needs updated infrastructure in order to continue its economic development and maintain its historic buildings.

Please help Copake achieve their goals by recommending us.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Andrew L. and Patricia C. Fisher

CAPITAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CREDC)
MIKE YEVOLI, DIRECTOR
433 RIVER STREET, TROY NY 12180

Director Mike Yevoli,

I write in support of funding to revitalize our beloved Grange Hall and the Copake village. My wife and I bought our home in Copake Falls in 2013. We found ourselves becoming friends with many locals, some of which invited us to join the Grange. We have been active members ever since. The Grange provides us the connection to our community, bringing us together in difficult times as we have all just witnessed but also offered us much fun with the various fun raisers and get-togethers.

It has been great to be a part of the Copake Grange in a time of new member interest coming from all ages. We love hearing the stories from our elder members and enjoy the enthusiasm from the younger members.

With some major and targeted funding, Copake Grange will stand to welcome many a new member and support our community for the many generations ahead.

The hamlet of Copake is unique in many ways, one being that it still has a very active Grange Hall and it would be wonderful to see it all revitalized.

Thank you,
Bridget Johnston.
Copake Falls.

EMILY RUBIN
46 CAT TRACK ROAD
ANCRAM, NY 12502

*Capital Region Economic
Development Council (CREDC)
Mike Yevoli, Director
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180*

Dear CREDC,

The Copake Grange is a vital part of our community and needs all the support it can get from CREDC so that it may continue to serve the community at its fullest potential. Funds to do this are essential.

As an author and instructor, I teach writing workshops locally and throughout the county, the Copake Grange provides a wonderful gathering place for artists to share with our community. The theater and wonderful room where readings and performances take place would benefit with upgrades to further support the creative endeavors of the many artists we are lucky to have in our community.

I am also a vendor (Taconic Trading Co.) at our local Copake Hillsdale Farmer's Market, and sell wares also in local farm stores, for this endeavor the Copake Grange also provides important preparatory kitchen area, which, if further developed could serve many more vendors.

I will put it simply: The Copake Grange will flourish and be able to continue its mission of servicing the community with your support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Emily Rubin
www.emilyrubin.net
<https://taconictradingco.com>

CAPITAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CREDC)
MIKE YEVOLI, DIRECTOR
433 RIVER STREET, TROY NY 12180

Hello,

I am writing to support the grant application submitted towards the revitalization of the small rural town of Copake , NY. I am currently a small business owner, manager of the local Copake Hillsdale Farmers Market as well as an active Copake Grange member.

I don't want to go on and on about how wonderful the small rural town of Copake is but rather want to emphasize the great importance for our younger generation who are born and raised in Columbia County to have a place to live, work and prosper in the future by remaining in a community that grows. With so many young people not being able to afford living here, we need to make changes to this community to encourage them to stay here, start businesses, be part of the greater community and eventually raise their own families. It is also imperative that they can earn a good wage and support a family.

With this grant , our community will move forward and young folks will find opportunities that simply do not exist right now.

It is my hope that we can see changes that will impact our youth within our community.

Sincerely
Nicole Friedrich

Mr. Mike Yevoli, Director
Capital Region Economic
Development Council (CREDC)
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180

Director Yevoli,

I can't tell you how deserving the small but beautiful and totally vibrant town of Copake is to receive a \$4.5 million NY Forward grant!

I first fell in love with Copake 50 years ago (!), when I discovered it as a 22-year old counselor at what was then known as Bronx House-Emanuel Camps. Little did I know, as a counselor in the Senior Citizen camp that I would be back as my husband and I moved up as full-time resident seven years ago.

We came "cold turkey," knowing no one and hoping to find friends and neighbors by getting involved with community groups.

We couldn't have found a better place than the Copake area! Its small, walkable downtown contains just about everything you need to shop, grab a takeout or sitdown meal, get gas, bump into friends old and new..... all the while surrounded by beautiful blue-green mountains and rolling fields! And of course, there's the walk-to Copake Grange, where we are constantly meeting "friends we haven't met yet" while getting closer to so many folks we've known only superficially from other local organizations, businesses, and chance encounters on the trails.

In the 50 years I've known and loved it, the little town of Copake has changed (fewer dairy cows, a few more houses) — but overall, it's been a really heart-warming change, magnified by the Grange's bringing together of neighbors from across the spectrum of social, economic, and political places.

Of course, the same differences that are inflaming the country are present in Copake: but this is one community and one organization (the Copake Grange) that are defying "what you read in the papers" and working so effectively to help neighbors come together as colleagues and friends.

Copake exemplifies what small-town America (and New York) *should* look like. But as an old farming community, much of its infrastructure (including the downtown Grange building) are in serious need of updating and repair.

A grant of \$4.5 million will go a long way toward moving rural NY Forward!

Thank you for considering this proposal!

Sincerely,

Marilyn Gross

Capital Region Economic
Development Council (CREDC)
Mike Yevoli, Director
433 River Street,
Troy, NY 12180
(sent via email to copakeNYforward@gmail.com)

To Whom It May Concern:

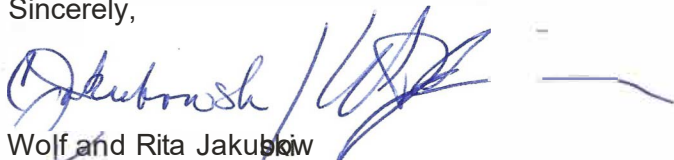
We have been homeowners in the 200-year-old Hamlet of Copake for 15 years. It is a wonderful place with a wonderful, growing population, but its infrastructure has deteriorated badly over the years and the downtown center and its surrounds are in need of major upgrades. A growing list of needs has remained on the drawing board for many years due to lack of financial resources.

It is exciting that New York State, and particularly the CREDC, recognize the needs of rural communities across the capital region and have agreed to designate monies to be directed to towns like ours. Copake has the potential to become a more vibrant model community, while incorporating modern, sustainable, inviting designs to foster growth, while honoring its historic ambiance and charm. Our town leaders have been working diligently to specify projects that would most benefit from a grant award. Last Saturday, at a special Town of Copake meeting, we participated in a vibrant exchange of ideas, concerns, and an explosion of enthusiasm as neighbors met to learn more about the work of the Copake Revitalization Committee. It is heartening to see that the potential to put new life into our town is bringing people together in positive and dynamic ways.

Copake Grange #935, located in the downtown area, has been the heart and soul of Copake Hamlet since its inception in 1903. Grange Hall, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is in dire need of resources for restoration, Grange Hall not only serves as a meeting place for members, but also as a critically needed place for everyone from the Roe Jan area to gather, learn, experience music, talks and other cultural events in its theater, dinners and dancing in its common room, and more. As a nonprofit organization, the costs of simply keeping the building safe are increasingly prohibitive. Everyone would benefit from an infusion of capital from New York_State.

We therefore thank the Council for its consideration of our grant application, as part of the larger submission from the town, and we encourage you to consider our proposal for award.

Sincerely,



Wolf and Rita Jakubow
304 Snyder Pond RD, Box 12
Copake, NY 12516

CAPITAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CREDC)
MIKE YEVOLI, DIRECTOR
433 RIVER STREET, TROY NY 12180

I am in favor of this grant. Our Grange is in need of help and this would be a big boost for us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lindsay LeBrecht,

Mike Yevoli, Director
Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC)
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli:

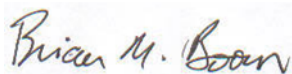
I am writing in support of the Town of Copake's proposal for a 2022 NY Forward grant that would enable the downtown of Copake to be revitalized so it can realize its full potential as an economically and ecologically sustainable community. A grant from CREDC would help position Copake as a place that more New Yorkers will want to live, work, and raise their families.

I bought a weekend home in Copake in 1995, and loved it so much I decided I would retire in the "Land of Rural Charm," as the town is known. The town is blessed to have beautiful mountains of Taconic State Park to its east, and verdant rolling hills and valleys of farm land to its west. In the middle of it all is nestled downtown Copake, which is a prime locale for an infusion of NYS funds to revitalize its infrastructure for private businesses and public spaces.

I will focus my comments on one building, Copake's Grange, of which I am a proud member. As summarized on its website, "Copake Grange 935 is a non-profit community organization comprised of local members from the Roe Jan area in and around Copake, New York. We are a local chapter of the National Grange, an organization over 150 years old that is dedicated to supporting and advancing the life of rural communities, particularly those with agricultural roots. Our Grange Hall, built in 1903, with its 94-seat theater and meeting spaces, is a location dedicated to bringing the community together through lectures, plays and performances, and serves as a civic center to advance local initiatives that can benefit our rural community."

The 119-year-old Grange Hall is in dire need of stabilization and rehabilitation. Only a stone's throw from the center of Copake's downtown, at the intersection where the Town's iconic clock is located, the Grange Hall is a keystone building in the revitalization scenario needed by the town to realize its full potential. A 2022 NY Forward grant from CREDC would transform the Grange Hall, and the entirety of downtown Copake, into an even more charming, vibrant, and sustainable small town, one for which all of New York State would be very proud indeed.

Sincerely,



Brian M. Boom
163 Valley View Road
Copake Falls, NY 12517

Capital Region Economic Development Council
Michael Yevoli, Director
433 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

Dear Sir,

I am writing as a member of the Copake Grange and the owner of a small family farm in Copake. I think it would be absolutely wonderful to have the Hamlet of Copake be able to expand the stores and services available in Copake including revitalizing the Grange Hall. Copake is large enough to sustain additional businesses and could use a pharmacy and a nice restaurant that could draw people from the surrounding area. Copake would also benefit from adding sidewalks for the safety of older and younger people and expanding green common areas.

Thank you for your support of this proposal.

Best regards,

Judith Church
Owner
Back4Farm
12 Stonewall Ridge Rd.
Copake, NY 12516

CAPITAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CREDC)
MIKE YEVOLI, DIRECTOR
433 RIVER STREET, TROY NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli,

The Grange has served the Copake community for decades. It would be most appropriate and beneficial to use funds to refurbish the building to continue to revitalize our small, but vibrant town.

My husband has been coming to Copake for over 60 years and our best decision was moving here full-time more than 10 years ago. We have seen positive changes in our community, including growth in the Grange membership and activities. Let's keep the momentum!

Sharon and Jed Luchow

Capital Region Economic
Development Council (CREDC)
Mike Yevoli, Director
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli:

We have had a home in Copake for 40 years. We are very proud of our little town and want to make it a thriving area. I am writing in support of the proposed revitalization plan. Copake sits in the beautiful countryside of Columbia County, however, the Hamlet of Copake is much in need of improvement. Currently, our "downtown" lacks a design that encourages walking and patronizing our local businesses. What's needed is a layout that attracts not only our residents but also visitors to the area. Our businesses need this boost so they can remain the local institutions we love. Sidewalks, as well as a new streetscape, would make all the difference. People would come to Copake to enjoy the feeling of an old-time country town square.

I am the historian of the Copake Grange which is the most significant and treasured institution in the Hamlet. It is on the National Register of Historic Places and has a special place in Copake history. Grange Hall was opened in 1903 with a celebration attracting 250 people. Today, the Grange has approximately 100 active members and is poised to once again be the center of community activity. To do so, Grange Hall must be restored and repaired to assure that its structure remains strong. This must be done with careful preservation of its architecture. The building is representative of the vernacular architecture of the period which makes it practical and functional. It is important to note that the Grange is different than other fraternal organizations. It not only opens its doors to the community for events, but also encourages others to use the Hall for parties, weddings, meetings and additional activities.

The Grange is in desperate need of restoration to its exterior (windows, doors, ramps, siding, etc.) and improvement to the interior (electrical upgrades, fire suppression systems, kitchen improvements, etc.). All must be done with careful attention to the preservation of the building which makes each project more complex and more expensive.

With your help, Grange Hall will last for many more years. We are ready to start working!

Sincerely,
Janet and Jim Mackin
361 Weed Mine Road
Copake, NY 12516

CAPITAL REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CREDC)
MIKE YEVOLI, DIRECTOR
433 RIVER STREET, TROY NY 12180

To whom it may concern,

As a Copake resident and local business owner my husband and I would love to see copake and the grange receive a grant to revitalize both the town as well as the grange.

We moved to the Copake area 7 years ago and are simply in love with the upstate small town country life.

We love the friendliness of the neighbors, the community as a whole and all the local business owners.

There is so much support amongst supporting local business and working together.

As a local business owner that use the Grange kitchen to prep and prepare some of our food products we have come to see and understand the importance of what and how the grange serves the local community and surrounding areas. When we joined the grange was just starting to rebuild both the membership as well as the membership.

Through a ton of hard work from many volunteers and fund raising efforts they have laid a great foundation but there is a ton of work needed to be done to bring the grange back to its Glory days of years past.

We would love to see Copake and the grange be rewarded with grants to help make this happen. So many lives would benefit greatly from this.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mei and Tony George

Capital Region Economic Development Council
Mike Yevoli, Director
433 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to request that the The Capital Region Economic Development Council (CREDC) choose The Grange as a candidate to receive funds from NY Forward.

Since I have become a member of The Copake Grange I have had the chance to meet many lovely neighbors whom all share the same goals of helping neighbors and building community. We collect food for the needy, we throw square dance fundraisers, and plant sales to raise funds to preserve our historic building so that people will have a place to congregate. We lease our kitchen out to local business to help them thrive. We provide help to students.

The Grange is in a great need of many repairs. I sincerely hope you consider awarding funds to the Grange.

Thank you,
Vicki Sander
80 Connelly Road
Hillsdale NY 12529

*Capital Region Economic
Development Council (CREDC)
Mike Yevoli, Director
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180*

Dear Mr, Yevoli,

My family has had a residence in Copake since I was a young boy in the early 1970's. I have wonderful memories of growing up in this friendly, small town. In some ways, it's nice that Copake hasn't changed much over the years. It's still a friendly small town with plenty of country charm, however, some things do change. Unfortunately, the town is in desperate need of a facelift that can help revitalize it. It's so sad that the burning of our quaint local movie theatre so many years ago seemed to mark a general decline for the town.

People have so many choices today when it comes to their basic needs, and many of the community stores in Copake have long since closed. This decline in small towns is a bit of a catch 22 since...new businesses are not likely to open until the town is more attractive to more people and; more people aren't likely to come and patronize the businesses in town until it is more attractive and there are more choices.

Small towns like Copake need these funds to help restore and uplift the community, as well as to preserve the history (like our community Grange). Please help Copake to become a vibrant small town again by considering us as a recipient for the available revitalization funds.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Kevin and Sandy Camenzuli
27 Lakeshore Drive
Copake, New York 12516
(518) 672-1513

*Capital Region Economic
Development Council (CREDC)
Mike Yevoli, Director
433 River Street, Troy, NY 12180*

Dear Mr. Yevoli,

We own two properties in the town of Copake, NY, including one where I can quickly run or bike to the business center of the town. Copake has always seemed like an underdeveloped gem that just needed a facelift. We've been seeing what some love and care can do in our neighbor, Hillsdale, NY, where they added sidewalks that have attracted new businesses, tourists, and homeowners. Every weekend, I see many bicyclists riding through Copake. This would grow exponentially if we could connect it to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail. In addition, the design that has been shown to us to add sidewalks and a mini parklike area around the iconic clock in the center of town would likely attract more businesses, as well.

We hope you will strongly consider Copake in your grant allocation. Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,
Jay and Amy Schiff
2340 County Road 7, West Copake, NY 12516
85 Birch Hill Road, Craryville, NY 12521

Capital Region Economic
Development Council
Michael Yevoli, Director
433 River St., Troy NY 12180

Dear Mr. Yevoli,

I have been a homeowner in Copake for 17 years and it is a terrific place to live. It has been called the "Land of Rural Charm," and it really is, but the town itself could really use some infrastructure upgrades, to help revitalize it, as there are numerous potholes and very few sidewalks, which is dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists, both.

I am also a supporter of the historic Copake Grange, #935, which has become a wonderful space to gather residents together, as well as give back to the community. Whether someone is a member or not, the Grange is a welcoming place for all to enjoy. It would be truly terrific to have the funding to restore it to its original grandeur, so it can continue to be utilized safely by the people of Copake and of Columbia County and its many visitors for years to come!

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Gary and Susan Biale
1080 Lakeview Road
Copake, NY 10522
914-882-4703

Stephanie Sharp
P.O. Box 70
Copake Falls NY 12517

Mike Yevoli
Regional Director
Capital Region Economic Development Council
Hedley Park Place
433 River Street - Suite 1003
Troy, NY 12180

Dear Mike,

I moved to Copake just over 2 years ago, and have found the town to be incredibly welcoming and generous with their time and resources. I have met so many neighbors who care deeply about improving the community for long-time residents, newcomers and visitors alike.

I have a passion for restoring historic buildings, and in the past year I have purchased the abandoned Copake train depot and a former schoolhouse in the hamlet. I plan to restore these structures to their former glory and ensure the rich history of these buildings is preserved and shared.

I'm excited about the upcoming improvements that are already planned for the town, including the reconstruction of County Rte 7A, and look forward to the many other projects that could be completed with the assistance of the NY Forward program.

Thanks for considering our proposal,
Stephanie



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

Mike Yevoli
Regional Director
Empire State Development
433 River Street, Suite 1003 Troy,
NY 12180

Re: Town of Copake, Columbia County
2022 New York Forward Grant Application

Dear Mike Yevoli:

Columbia Economic Development Corporation is pleased to provide this letter of support for the Town of Copake's application to the New York Forward program. The Town seeks to revitalize the commercial corridor, improve the connection to the public trails and pocket parks. We believe the Town will successfully fulfill the requirements of the program and as a result develop a community defined strategic investment plan and successfully implement transformative projects.

Copake's historic, rural downtown is a highly compact, walkable, mixed-use commercial center. At the intersection of County Road 7A, Empire Road and Main Street, amenities include restaurants, retail, recreation, civic facilities, banks, Copake Memorial Park, Copake Agricultural Center, Copake Grange hall and Copake Methodist Church. In addition, the downtown district encompasses value-added agriculture initiatives led by thriving farms that are growing food, jobs and small business.

Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) is the lead economic development organization for Columbia County, New York. Our mission is to strengthen the area's tax base through economic development and job creation, to assist business to locate and expand within the County, and to promote Columbia County as a premier spot for both business investment and personal opportunity. If awarded, CEDC will assist in the administration of the small business grant program to help hamlet businesses improve commercial space, facades, outdoor dining, energy improvements and resilience. CEDC fully supports the Town of Copake's NY Forward grant application.

Sincerely,

F. Michael Tucker
President & CEO
Columbia Economic Development Corporation