



COPENHAGEN C.A.R.E.S. COLLABORATIVE

Community Action Resilience Enhancement Service

Our mission:

To enhance the health, safety, and resilience of the community, its residents, businesses, and visitors while promoting and maintaining a sense of unity, pride, and small-town character.

November 27, 2021

To: The Village of Copenhagen Mayor and Trustees

From: The Copenhagen CARES Collaborative

CC: Gerald Snyder, Ben Shambo, Kim Vogt, Shareef Stokely

Regarding: Our purpose, mission and message to the public and this Board of Trustees, that are elected by the people of the Village of Copenhagen NY. The committee is requesting this letter be read to the public in the absence of public comment and with community members not being able to be in person.

Dear Mayor Souva and Trustees:

This collaborative was formed in September 2021, after a group of community members and business owners approached Mayor Souva about the possibility of forming a business association or some other type of subcommittee, that could help to implement projects that village residents want to see.

This small group of members informally gathered to discuss ideas and motivations, we all had, that could further improve our village, and help get our community members more involved, to get things accomplished more efficiently, timely and collaboratively.

The group decided that no matter how large or small this group ends up being, that if we all work together toward common goals, that together we can make a difference in our small village. Using

community resources, communicating with the county leaders and educating ourselves on what the possibilities can be, we want to help this board of trustees and all residents of the village to live in the best village it can be.

To date we have gathered 5 times. We invite anyone and everyone who would like to be part of this collaborative to attend these informal meetings. All they have to do is reach out through our Facebook page and inquire when the next meeting is scheduled. We have used the Journal and Republican as well as the Watertown Times to share our upcoming event and educate the community on how this is a public collaborative and all are welcome.

Consistently, the active participants are Chris Vogt (community member and resident) Cyndi Pridell (community member and resident), Hollie Powis (business owner), Mary Rumble (community member/resident and business owner) and Molly Williams (business owner).

We have had the opportunity to have the assistance and guidance from Kim Vogt and Mark Souva at our initial meeting, to let us know what things are within our reach, and which things we need to seek additional assistance for, such as large projects and events we want to bring to fruition.

To date this group has created a Facebook page, for the public to have access to information and events. We have created a mission statement that represents our mission and vision, with positivity, moving forward. We have created an email account and we are in the process of getting our information and ideas in place to have a web site designed to further extend our reach, to everyone who wishes to participate in the Copenhagen CARES Collaborative. The collaborative has registered with the IRS for an EIN# and we have officially opened an account with Community Bank NA, for continued accountability to the village and its residents who currently reside here, to those who live far away, who will always call this home, our goal is to encourage everyone who wishes to, to be active in their hometown.

The Copenhagen CARES Collaborative, has a goal to bring all entities together to unite us as a village. To bring our fire department, our school and all businesses, working together for one common goal, this civic minded group wants to be part of the larger picture collaborating with this village and others.

Our first event, The Hometown Holiday event. Held Saturday December 4, 2021 from 2 pm to 6pm is the official tree lighting ceremony to kick off the holiday season. We have just added some community spirit to this event, promoting our small -town, small family- owned businesses. They are opening their doors, offering some specials and saying thank you to everyone. With a little fun for the children and adults, we look to promote community unity and pride.

Upon formation of this collaborative, conversations were had with previous groups who have worked separately to do fund raising and community projects. They agreed that this new civic type group, could transfer the previously raised funds into this newly formed collaborative to allow one account that represents all the different projects, simultaneously. So, for example: The Memory Tree Bulbs that were once sold just at Christmas, can now be sold all year. Moneys that come in will be allocated for that specific purpose. We look to have veteran's banners placed throughout the village. As we seek donations and as friends and families make donations to this wonderful project, those funds coming in will be allocated to the veteran's fund, which is set up under the "umbrella" known as The Copenhagen CARES Collaborative. Records will be kept and notes taken with accountability to the community for what our group is doing.

At this time, we are asking for the village board of trustees, to release the "fundraising "monies it holds, that were residual funds, left over from the sesquicentennial event. That committee stated at the completion of their event, that funds remaining were to be used for future village events. This Hometown Holiday, with the tree lighting, and fireworks is certainly a wonderful event that our residents and visitors have a right to enjoy. We have delivered invitations, door to door, and extended this invite on Facebook, through posters and the newspaper and even a TV promo. The community is receptive and excited to attend. We hope that you, as a board, elected by the residents of this village, can find it in your hearts and allow us to have access to these funds, that will allow The Copenhagen CARES Collaborative to continue to help you, make this village an amazing place to live and visit.

We thank you in advance for your consideration in this important matter. Let us move forward with positivity and change to work together as a collaborative group who all want the best for our community.

Most Sincerely,

The Copenhagen CARES Collaborative

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