



230 Mountain View Road Copake, New York 12516
Tel: 518-329-1234

April 21, 2023

Richard Koskey, President
Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation, Inc.
1 Hudson City Center- Suite 203
Hudson, New York 12534-2355

Re: Copake Application 2023

Dear President Koskey:

The Town of Copake is looking forward to celebrating its bicentennial in 2024. I am writing to ask that the Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation help underwrite the year-long festivities. The Town will provide funding for some events and programs, but we are requesting funds from Rheinstrom in the amount of \$30,000 for the major events.

Over the years Copake has benefited from the generosity of Rheinstrom Hill, and we are most appreciative of your support of our Town and our community. In 2021 we received a very generous contribution of \$5000 to fund our educational and moving Historic Exhibit, which will permanently grace the corridors of Copake Town Hall. For many years Rheinstrom Hill has supported the Copake Park Summer Program, which includes a day camp for youngsters from Copake and surrounding towns.

Plans for Copake's Bicentennial Celebration

To commemorate Copake's founding, the Town Board appointed a Bicentennial Committee to develop plans for our Bicentennial. The Committee is planning many events which will begin on April 4, 2024, the 200th anniversary of the first Town meeting, and continue throughout the year, including a Bicentennial Parade in August complete with fireworks in the evening. We intend to offer all events free to the public.

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In its 2024 budget, the Town of Copake will provide funding for the Bicentennial celebration, but financial assistance from Rhainstrom Hill to help subsidize the major events would be most welcome. We know that typically Rhainstrom Hill announces and awards grants in May. Recognizing that some of these events will not occur until the summer of 2024, we would have no objection to receiving 50% of the total grant now and the balance in May of 2024. Knowing the total award this year will help us to budget for 2024.

We anticipate significant costs for the following Bicentennial projects and events. Below is a breakdown of the components of our request:

Historic Plaque Program (\$10,000)

See enclosed program plan and funding request from the Copake Historic Preservation Committee describing plans to recognize approximately fifty (50) historic properties.

First Meeting Play April 5 — April 7 (\$5,000)

Copake resident Carl Ritchie, an accomplished playwright, will present a play based on minutes from Copake's inaugural meeting. The play will be staged at the Copake Grange Theater. Four performances will be offered free-of-charge to the public. Breakdown of costs: \$2000-- artists fees; \$500 – graphic design; \$500- advertising; \$600- stage manager; \$200- programs; \$1000- sets, props, costumes; \$200- site prep and management.

Celebration of Farming in Copake (\$1000) A presentation at the Copake Grange will include the showing of an original video on the history of farming in Copake, a display of farming equipment, tools and memorabilia, and a panel discussion featuring both retired Copake farmers and current Copake farmers. Breakdown of costs: \$900- production of a video which will feature old photography as well as interviews of local farmers recorded in the 1990's; \$100- incidental costs of producing a display of farming equipment, tools and memorabilia.

Bicentennial Parade, Picnic and Fireworks display — August 17 (\$14,000)

A community parade to Empire Farm will recall the “Yankee Doodle Days” of the past, and feature marching bands, local fire departments, tractors, dancers, horse drawn carriages, and local dignitaries. Picnic goers will be entertained by a band, and food trucks will offer a variety of foods and refreshments. The day-long celebration will culminate in a fireworks

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show. Breakdown of Costs: Parade- \$1000- fees for a marching band; \$2000-- incidental costs including police, traffic control and loudspeaker system; Picnic- Site will be free of charge from Empire Farm/ FarmOn! Foundation ; \$1000-- Fees for Band; \$10,000- Fireworks.

Additional Events

We are also planning other events and activities, including:

Town Hall Ceremony April 4th: to mark the 200th anniversary of Copake's first Town Meeting, a Town Hall ceremony featuring reading of a Resolution and remarks from State and local officials, followed by a reception and viewing of the Town Hall Historic Exhibit. Cost: \$500 to be covered by the Town.

Roeliff Jansen Historical Society Exhibit July 6 through October: an exhibit at the Roeliff Jansen Historical Society, "Celebrating the History of Copake." The exhibit will be sponsored by the Historical Society.

A children's "Historical Treasure Hunt" will take place in Copake Falls on July 6, 2024. Cost: \$100 to be covered by the Town

"Come Home to Copake" July 13, 2024 All current and former residents of Copake will be invited to a "Come Home to Copake" picnic at Copake Memorial Park. This town-wide reunion will include a "Story Corps" booth to video-record and preserve remembrances and stories of Copake's history. For those who do not bring their own picnics, local churches and charities will sell box lunches. The day will conclude with a band concert. Cost: \$2000- for band fees, and incidental costs. To be covered by the Town.

History of Copake: A walking tour and lecture by Town Historian Howard Blue

Sweet Farmhouse Open House October 2024: The public will be invited to tour this recent addition to the National Historic Register, located in Copake.

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Town of Copake Information

The EIN# for the Town of Copake is 14-6002142. A letter confirming our tax exempt status is enclosed.

The Copake Town Board is comprised as follows:

Supervisor: Jeanne E. Mettler

Deputy Supervisor: Richard Wolf

Councilpersons: Jeffrey Judd, Stanley Gansowski and Terry Sullivan

Bicentennial Committee

The Honorary Chairs are former Copake Supervisor Angelo Valentino, Flora Bergquist and Edgar Masters. The officers are Chair Kellie Nardin and Vice Chairs Lesley Doyel and Liana Gaston. Members are Town Historian Howard Blue, Robert Callahan, Suzanne Hollenbeck, Former Town Clerk Vana Hotaling, Winette Edge, Maryanne Fallon, Lindsay LeBrecht, Cyd McDowell, Roberta Roll and Gina White.

Contact person for this grant application

I will serve as the contact person and can be reached at Copake Town Hall, 230 Mountain View Road, Copake, New York 12516 or by telephone (518) 329-1234 Ext 1. My cell is 518-822-7673. My e-mail address is: CopakeSupervisor@TownofCopake.org

The Town has had a long relationship with Rheinstrom Hill Community Foundation, Inc. and we value that relationship. We hope that you will be interested in supporting our Bicentennial and we would be very grateful for whatever assistance you can provide. We would of course acknowledge your support throughout the year.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

JEANNE E. METTLER
Supervisor

Enc. Historic Plaque Project