

General Minutes of the March 3, 2009 Organizational Meeting:

Present: Tom Dias, James Miller, Art Bassin, Libby McKee, Suzanne Bressler, Bob Murphy, Michael Cawley

Town Supervisor Dias called the meeting to order and welcomed the six members who have agreed to serve on the new Ancram Grants and Funding Committee. The six members are: Art Bassin, Jim Miller, Libby McKee, Bob Murphy, Suzanne Bressler and Michael Cawley. Supervisor Dias said that he would also attend the meetings as often as possible.

Supervisor Dias outlined the purpose of the new group: to help the town of Ancram secure as much state and federal aid and grant money as possible. He explained that Ancram has never had a committee solely focused on seeking funding for the Town, and that while the committee's work would be ongoing and long-term, an immediate priority would be to aggressively pursue federal stimulus funding for the Town through the proper county and state channels. He passed out copies of different grant applications and notices that he had received.

Supervisor Dias told the group that a comprehensive list of needs had been sent to the county and the state. He is expecting to hear from Ken Flood of the Columbia County IDA within the next two or three weeks, at which time the Town would be expected to prioritize its wish-list.

The committee asked to review the list. Bob Murphy recommended that projects be ranked not only as to need but as to how many jobs they might provide to Ancram residents and small businesses. Supervisor Dias agreed to provide the omnibus list to committee members. Suzanne Bressler further recommended that the omnibus list be posted on the Town website for public information.

Michael Cawley shared his experience in applying for grants -- what works and what doesn't. Both Suzanne Bressler and Libby McKee also shared their experiences with grantwriting and working with elected officials who have appropriations and discretionary funding power.

Supervisor Dias made a motion to nominate Suzanne Bressler as the Chairman of the newly formed committee. The motion was seconded by Libby McKee and passed unanimously.

The committee agreed to meet twice a month on Thursday evenings at 6PM. The next meeting was set for Thursday, March 19th, 2009. The meeting will be held in the Ancram Town Hall courtroom, and will move to the conference room at times of presently scheduled Town meetings.

Suzanne Bressler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05PM. The motion was seconded by Michael Cawley and passed unanimously.

Submitted by acting clerk Bob Murphy.