

Town of Ancram
Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
December 17, 2007
Draft

Present: Art Bassin, Barry Chase, Bonnie Hundt, Kyle Lougheed, Don MacLean, Leah Wilcox; Don Meltz

Absent: Gene Aleinikoff, Jim Bryant, Chris Sommerhoff, Monica Cleveland

The Comp Plan Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Art Bassin at 7 PM.

A motion was made by and seconded to accept the 11/19 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassin indicated he planned to contact the manager of the Ancram Mill in January and schedule an informal conversation about the Mill's perspectives on issues related to the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Bassin asked Don Meltz to provide an update on the GIS mapping process, the build-out analysis and digitizing the bio-diversity map as suggested by Bio-diversity Team Chair Jamie Purinton.

Mr. Meltz reported he had been working on the maps, but would not be ready to share anything with the Committee until the meeting in early January.

Ms. Purinton then outlined the work that had been done by the Ancram Bio-diversity team, of which Comp Plan member Leah Wilcox had been a member, and shared some maps they had produced. Ms. Purinton proposed the bio-diversity map that had been done by the Team of about 4000 acres along the Roe Jan be digitized using funds the bio-diversity team had remaining from their project. Mr. Meltz explained the value of digitizing the bio-diversity map, and was asked by the Committee to proceed to digitize the map and incorporate it and the findings of the Bio-diversity Team in the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Purinton agreed to email Mr. Meltz and Chair Bassin a copy of her team's report.

Mr. Bassin announced the survey had been mailed out as of Friday 11/16 and started arriving in Town around November 26, about a week later than expected because of the heavy Thanksgiving mail flow. Mr. Bassin reported that a post card had been sent to all Ancram households telling people that the survey return date had been changed to December 7. Mr. Bassin also reported about 400 surveys had been returned so far of the 1650 that had been mailed. About 150 water well data surveys have also been returned.

The Committee discussed survey cross tabs and the need for a preliminary vision statement, and decided that Nan and Don should take a first cut at both the vision statement and the cross tabs. Mr. Bassin asked if anyone on the Committee wanted to have the raw survey data available to work with on their own computer in Excel. No one wanted to do this, except Mr.

Bassin, who will work with Don Meltz to get set up to review the data and cross tabs on Excel.

Mr. Bassin reported that he had invited the 28 Ancram high school students Mr. Chase had identified to a planning workshop for 16-22 year olds on 12/29, and had emailed the invitation to the 170 people on the email communications list to announce the meeting more broadly to include college age students and people in this age group who are working and not going to school. Mr. Bassin indicated he would check with Will Lutz, who was going to communicate this planning meeting to the Fire Company.

Mr. Bassin reported he had not yet received any responses, but said he planned to be at the Town Hall on December 29 at 11 AM with a couple of pizzas even if no one responds, just in case some individuals do come to the workshop without responding first. Mr. Chase and Mr. Lougheed indicated they would join Mr. Bassin to host the planning workshop. Mr. Bassin will arrange for the pizzas, soda, chart pads, name tags etc.

Mr. Bassin asked that all prior to the next meeting Committee members carefully review all the materials from the 9/29 and 10/1 workshops (which are posted on the Comp Plan portion of the Town Website, at www.townofancram.org) so all Comp Plan members can become fully aware of what the “town” thinks about the issues, and what the range of opinions is. Mr. Bassin said that it was important that the Committee understand and represent the “town’s” points of view, not their own, as we begin the process of understanding what the surveys are telling us about what “town” wants to see in the Comp Plan.

Mr. Bassin also suggested that Comp Plan Committee members review the demographics write up, the DEC write up and the Planning Issues list prior to the next Committee meeting. All these materials are on the web site.

Several Committee members commented that the Committee and the consultants we have retained can play an important role to implement the “community vision” for the future of Ancram by contributing specific strategies and programs which may not be known to town residents and therefore not in the surveys or workshop documents, but which are consistent with where the Community collectively wants to go. It was agreed this could require some educational efforts to get everyone up to speed on the right programs to implement the Community vision.

Mr. Bassin announced that Ancram had submitted an application for an Economic Development grant of \$21,000, and had received information from Trish MacArthur about a farmland protection planning grant, which will be investigated and applied for in January.

Mr. Bassin proposed that the Committee resume its weekly meeting schedule starting in January 2008, and asked members to plan to attend meetings on 1/7, 1/14, 1/21 and 1/28.

A motion was made by Mr. MacLean and seconded by Mr. Chase to adjourn the meeting at 8.40 PM. Motion carried.