

**Town of Ancram
Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
December 15, 2008**

Comp Plan Members Present: Art Bassin, Suzanne Bressler, Barry Chase, Hugh Clark, Bonnie Hundt

Absent: Leah Wilcox, Don MacLean, Kyle Lougheed

Others Present: Sheila Clark, Jim Miller

The Comp Plan meeting was called to order by Chair Art Bassin at 7 PM. The minutes of the 12/8 meeting were approved, subject to revisions requested by Ms. Bressler.

1. Strategy Documents – The Committee reviewed and made final revisions to the drafts of the “Top Ten Things”, a one page summary of the Comp Plan strategies, the “Summary of Goals and Strategies”, the “Detailed Strategies” and the FAQs. The Committee decided to share these documents with the Town Board and other town officials for comment later this week when the revisions had been made, then review them one last time at the January 5 meeting, and release them to the Community in mid-January. These documents are still in draft form, and will be modified based on public comment over the next few months before they are finalized.

2. Community Meetings in February – The Committee discussed the format and content of the four planned Community Workshops in February to review and discuss Comp Plan strategies. The Workshops are planned to be two hours long, with two on Monday evenings and two on Saturday mornings. The Committee tentatively agreed to a format which included a short presentation from Nan building on her presentation made at the April Workshops, followed by questions from the audience. There was some discussion about whether we should have round tables and ask each table to spend 30 minutes discussing the strategies and developing a list of questions, or whether we should open the questions to the general audience without any table discussion. The content and format of these meetings will be discussed and finalized at the January 5 meeting with Ms. Stolzenberg’s participation.

3. Anticipated Timeline for Comp Plan Completion: The Committee discussed the proposed timeline for completing the Comp Plan over the next four months. The target date to formally present the Comp Plan to the Town Board is still 3/31/09. The next steps leading to the presentation of the Comp Plan to the Town Board are 1) finalizing the strategy documents 2) securing informal feedback from the Town Board, Planning Board, ZBA and other town officials on the strategies before the end of January; 3) mailing a summary of the Plan and strategies to all households by the middle of January, and making the Detailed Strategies and the FAQs available in hard copy at the Town Hall, via email and on the web-site; 4) holding four informal Community Meetings in February; and 5) holding Comp Plan Committee public hearings in March. Following the Comp Plan Committee public hearings, the Plan can be presented to the Town Board in March, 2009. Once the Town Board receives the Plan, it will hold additional public hearings

within 90 days, secure County Planning Board Approval of the Plan, and then vote to adopt the Plan.

4. Open Issues -- Mr. Bassin noted there were still open issues, including 1) the need to determine the proposed revisions to hamlet boundaries; 2) the need to determine the size of the proposed revisions to the hamlet commercial zones; 3) deciding what gets grandfathered; 4) finalizing the Comp Plan Document's organization and content; 5) finalizing key documents, like the Profile, the Introduction, the Implementation Plan and the Glossary.

5. CDBG Report: The CDBG Project team meets next on Wednesday, 12/17. Mr. Bassin suggested the comp Plan Committee review the Laberge septic and intersection reports in January. He also commented the structural report on the three building sin the center of Ancram was not adequate, and he had requested Laberge improve it before officially sending it to us. Mr. Bassin also said we would probably defer the housing survey planned as part of the CDBG Project and replace that section with an economic development planning element, because the housing survey only had a two year "life", and could be done later when we were ready to go for renovation grant money. The Committee requested that the Economic Development Report done by Charles Dodson several months ago for the CDBG Team be circulated to members of the Comp Plan Committee.

6. Farmland Protection Plan Update: We are still waiting for the contract from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to officially receive funding for this effort.

7. Next Meetings: Mr. Bassin suggested the Committee plan to meet next on January 5, 2009 with Ms. Stolzenburg.

The meeting adjourned at 8.15 PM.