

Town of Ancram
Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
February 16, 2008

Present: Art Bassin, Barry Chase, Jim Bryant, Kyle Lougheed, Don MacLean, Leah Wilcox,

Absent: Gene Aleinikoff, , Chris Sommerhoff, Bonnie Hundt,

The Comp Plan Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Art Bassin at 10 AM.

Mr. Bassin introduced Steve Winkley from the NY Rural Water Association. Mr. Winkley had been retained by the Committee to prepare a Groundwater Protection Plan (The Water Study) for Ancram, to assist the Committee in understanding how ground water supply and demand could influence future development. Mr. Winkley attended the meeting to present the Groundwater Protection Plan and respond to questions. The Water Study is available on the town web site (www.townofancram.org).

Mr. Winkley's presentation covered the methodology behind his report, the geology of Ancram and presented maps showing underlying geologic formations, locations and yields of wells, areas of high hydrogeologic sensitivity, likely groundwater discharge areas and groundwater recharge rates.

Mr. Winkley pointed out that virtually all of Ancram residents and businesses depended on wells for water, and reported he had been able to collect information on over 200 wells in preparing his study.

Mr. Winkley presented recommendations for how the Town could avoid activities which might contaminate groundwater, and proposed strategies for protecting groundwater.

During the question and answer period Mr. Winkley was asked if agricultural activities could threaten groundwater, and how the Town could protect against agricultural contamination of groundwater. Mr. Winkley responded that agricultural activities were regulated by the NY State Dept of Ag and Markets, and Towns had virtually no influence on agricultural activities which could adversely affect groundwater, but indicated the State maintained fairly strict controls to prevent agricultural contamination.

Also during the Q&A period Mr. Winkley was asked if there were funds available to support municipal water and sewer services in Ancram. Mr. Winkley said he thought there were State and Federal funds available for municipal water and sewer programs. If interested, Ancram would have to do a special study to determine what its needs were, where it would want to supply these services, and form a water or sewer district, the members of which would be assessed to financially support the projects. Mr. Winkley said, the advisability of a municipal water or sewage system would boil down to the economics, and whether the homes and businesses in Town which would get these services would want to incur the additional tax costs to pay for them.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 12 noon.