

Town of Ancram
Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
March 31, 2008

Present: Art Bassin, Barry Chase, Jim Bryant, Gene Aleinikoff, Bonnie Hundt, Kyle Lougheed, Leah Wilcox, Nan Stolzenburg

Absent: Don MacLean, Chris Sommerhoff

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

The minutes for the 3/24 Committee meeting were reviewed, and suggested changes were proposed by the Committee. The 3/24 minutes will be revised accordingly and re circulated for approval at the next meeting.

Gravel Mining: The Committee discussed the 3/24 meeting and concluded there would be value in asking DEC to visit with the Committee to outline the new mining regulations which appear to have been put into place, to clarify the frequency of regulatory visits and review the Town's role in the process for handling mining permit applications.

Vision/Goals: The Committee reviewed and made extensive revisions to the draft Vision Statement and to the Goals. The important changes to the Vision were 1) to clarify what we meant by "rural character" by defining it in the opening paragraph of the Vision, and 2) to clarify that the Vision in its entirety along with the goals which supported it described fully the "rural character" we seek to preserve. Mr. Aleinikoff suggested we add the need to keep the Town centers safe from deteriorating buildings and dangerous traffic as a goal. Mr. Bassin will revise the draft Vision Statement and Goals and will re circulate them.

Build Out Analysis: Ms. Stolzenburg distributed copies of the build out analysis and briefly walked the Committee through it. The committee will review this in depth at the next meeting.

Revised Plan Document: Ms. Stolzenburg distributed an updated version of the draft Comp Plan Plan/Profile document. The Committee will review this document in depth at a later meeting.

More Information Needed: In addition to talking to gravel miners and the Ancram Preservation Group, the Committee decided it would invite representatives of DEC to talk about gravel mining regs, people from DOT to discuss road safety in the Hamlets and how speed limits and other road regulations worked and could be influenced, and representatives of the department of Health to learn more about how septic systems were regulated and managed. In addition, the Committee decided to ask Jim MacArthur, Town Highway Superintendent to join the Committee to discuss topics of joint interest, and will invite large landowners and farmers to participate in a discussion with the Committee on their vision for the future of Ancram.

Communications/Outreach: Mr. Bassin reported that in addition to having already met with the Mill, the APG and the gravel mining community, the Committee has been invited to a meeting of Neighbors Helping Neighbors on 4/17, and to participate in a Community Day sponsored by the Youth Commission over the Memorial Day weekend. The Committee has also contacted Long Lake, the Presbyterian Church in Ancramdale and the Lutheran Church in Ancram to arrange meetings between members of these organizations and the Comp Plan Committee, at their convenience, to review where we are with the Comp Plan.

4/26 Town Meeting: The Committee discussed the purpose and format for the planned Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday 4/26. The purpose of the meeting is to present to the Community what we have done over the past year, get the reactions of the Community to the Vision and Goals to make sure we are on the right track, and have correctly interpreted the results of the workshops and survey. The Committee decided to have no more than 30 minutes of introduction and explanation from the Committee about what we have done so far, where we are with the Vision and Goals, and what the next steps are. The Committee felt that this presentation portion of the Town meeting would be best if there were only one or two presenters, both to save time and to make the material presented more cohesive and less disjointed. The presentation will be followed by a 30 minute “recess” when attendees will be encouraged to browse around the town hall and look at the “physical evidence” of what we have done over the last year, including the workshop results, the survey results, the water study, the build out analysis, the profile document, the maps, the Vision Statement and the Goals. Committee members will be at various “information stations” to discuss what is there and respond to questions, with the appropriate materials posted on foam boards so the information will be easy to read and talk about. Following the “walk around” the Committee will respond to questions from the audience about the Vision Statement and Goals, and anything else related to the Comp Plan process that the Community wants to ask about. Because the Vision Statement and Goals are not yet in final form, and because the Committee wants to mail out the Vision statement and Goals with the invitation to the Town Meeting, it appears the 4/26 date will not work, and a revised date will be set at the Committee’s next meeting.

Next Meetings: There will be no meeting next week (4/7). The committee will meet on 4/14, 4/21 (with Nan) and 4/28, assuming we cancel the 4/26 Town Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10.15 PM.