

2014 Priorities

1. Complete zoning & subdivision revisions (2013)
2. Continue building financial reserves (2013)
3. Keep taxes flat for 6th year (2013)
4. Improve 82/7 intersection safety – part 2
5. Explore grant opportunities to support Heritage Resources & Natural Resources planning efforts
6. Monitor wind turbine noise problems

Hugh Clark Comments:

1. Complete review and any recommended revision of the Town Fee Schedule. *Background: from Comp Plan 9.6—“Establish a fee schedule that adequately covers expenses related to the normal review of a project...”*
2. Adopt a local “Right to Farm Law.” *Background: from Comp Plan 1.1—“To reinforce the importance of agriculture in Ancram, adopt a local ‘Right to Farm Law.’”* By the way, this is not already included in zoning revisions, because it is not properly a zoning matter. It is its own separate, stand-alone subject and should be its own stand-alone law.
3. Review Local Law #1 of 1990 (Flood Damage Prevention). *Background: As noted in the 3 December 2012 ZRC Minutes and elsewhere, “The ZRC recommends that Local Law #1 of 1990 (Flood Damage Prevention) be reviewed in 2013 as an action related to, but separate from, the zoning revisions project.”* Charging the CAC or a separate panel to accomplish this review in and make recommendations appears to be the best course to accomplish this action. Increasingly erratic, extreme, wet weather suggests that such a project ought not to be delayed.
4. Consider holding a non-business annual or semi-annual town meeting day. *Background: from Comp Plan 3.2—“Improve the Community’s dialogue with Town government by establishing an annual or semi-annual town-meeting day to talk about longer term issues and concerns no suitable for discussion at monthly Town Board meetings.”* Yes, to a degree, we may already have done this somewhat. One example is the dialogue about appointing or electing the Highway Superintendent. Perhaps another example might be the use of the FAC and other advisory panels. However, the Comp Plan calls for such a forum and the TB ought to discuss whether to do it, not do it, or do it in a different manner.
5. Install enhanced community gateways. *Background: from Comp Plan 3.12—“Enhance the community gateways or ‘welcome’ signs, with landscaping lighting, and special signage. Gateways can establish a theme and can include signs, sculptures, or historic objects.”* From financial management to communications means/community dialogue to protection of agriculture/open space, Ancram has established that it is different from its neighbors. It’s time to reinforce that distinction and let the world know that we exist and where we are.