

## **CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

### **To the Town of Ancram**

Jamie Purinton, Chair  
David Dembo, Vice Chair  
Andy Barnet  
Choral Eddie  
Joe Hoyt  
Colleen Lutz  
Erin Robertson

*The Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) provides information, tools, and advice for use in town planning; reviews land use proposals, and advises town government in the protection of our environment. The CAC conducts townwide natural resource inventories, reviews development proposals, and gathers and distributes information to town agencies, land use applicants, and the general public.*

(Adapted from Gretchen Stevens, CAC Hillsdale)

May 23, 2010

The Conservation Advisory Council would like to help make Ancram's town properties more sustainable and environmentally friendly. We have identified a list of opportunities for the Town Hall Site. We would be willing to help develop any of the below listed items given the support and direction of the Town Board.

1. As development plans are proposed on the Ancram Town Hall site, find ways to limit non porous surfaces and the associative run off into the adjacent stream and wetlands.
2. Improve the streamside buffer to protect the stream from vehicular pollutants running off parking area. Also propose a filtering buffer for drainage creek on adjacent property that is near southwest edge of property. Simply increase buffering vegetation by reducing the mow line. This is a cost savings idea.
3. Evaluate existing overall grading and drainage including roof water and parking lot drainage to identify any issues and solve any problems. Would it make sense to collect roof water for use in gardens?
4. Reduce mowing and create no cost new meadows. We can prepare a mowing schedule plan that will create greater biodiversity since mowing times and frequencies create different plant communities. For instance, some areas of property could be mowed every fall, some every other year and some even less frequently. We would draw a plan and flag it for your review and approval. We would want to delineate a beautifully shaped lawn around the building, create a generous area for Ancram Day Festival and overload parking, and delineate areas that can be kept as long-term meadows and wetland buffers.
5. Cluster future development including new proposed additions of pool and play equipment in order to save open space. Consider multiple uses - such as locating the basketball court on current asphalt in order to reduce building envelope and costs.

6. Prepare a planting plan for Town Hall site that relates to future plans for potential playground. Create shade to reduce summer heat in buildings, without blocking solar panels. Consider planting evergreen wind blocks to save winter heating bills. Create needed outdoor shade for community events and regular use.
7. Recommend ways to minimize lighting if needed.
8. Evaluate and recommend recycling systems for office and kitchen so that all bottles, cans, newspapers and cardboard are properly recycled.
9. Consider adventure outdoor elements that can add to potential playground including trails through woods and meadow.
10. If pool is located at this site, find ways to minimize fencing and to select rustic fence that matches barn look of Town Hall.
11. Explore opportunities for environmental education including signage that educates people about the frog and bird life, the value of conserving wetlands and energy output of solar panels.
12. Begin and maintain a policy of organic lawn and garden care for all town properties.