

Town of Ancram
Community Development Block Grant Project Team Meeting
June 24, 2009

Members Present: Art Bassin, Libby McKee, Will Lutz

The minutes of the 5/20 meeting were reviewed and approved.

1. Review Community Development Strategic Plan – Mr. Bassin asked for comments on the Draft Community Development Strategic Plan, and what the priority next steps should be. Mr. Lutz and Ms. McKee commented that the Community Development Strategic Plan seemed to accurately capture the discussions and conclusions of the CDBG Committee over the past year. In terms of priority next steps, the Committee concluded that the 82/7 Intersection was the first priority, followed by “fixing” the deteriorating buildings problem in the center of Ancram roughly in the following order:

- Tinsmith House, to facilitate the 82/7 intersection redesign
- Occupied House on NE corner, to facilitate 82/7 intersection work
- Stiehle House, to move, remove or repair
- Porters, to remove and replace with a new structure
- Simons General Store, to turn into a town library and historical center
- House opposite Simons on 82, to repair

In addition to these priorities, Mr. Lutz noted that there were other buildings in Ancram which were deteriorating and were worthy of considering as priorities to prevent further deterioration. Buildings in this category include

- The Little Store
- Oliver House

Mr. Lutz also commented that the open land on Rte. 7 opposite Oliver House might make a good town park, as it was centrally located between the Town Hall and Blass Park, and would tie the community together.

2. DOT Visit -- Ms. McKee reported on the visit by the State DOT to the 82/7 Intersection which was held on 6/22. She noted that the DOT indicated that there might be State money for this project, and that the DOT was pleased the town was considering acquiring some of the properties in the center of Town to help facilitate correcting the intersection.

3. Ancram Marketing Brochure -- Ms. McKee described the progress Ms. Bressler had made in sketching out a marketing brochure for Ancram. Ms. Bressler will discuss this in more detail next time.

4. Ancram Business/Economic Development – Mr. Lutz that economic development in Ancram would probably benefit from the creation of an “Ancram business Owners”

Association, which would encourage local business owners to take ownership for improving the Community and attracting more businesses and jobs to the area.

5. Historic Preservation Priorities – Mr. Bassin reported that he had heard from Town Historian Clara Van Tassel that NY State had designated the Lutheran Church in Ancram as an historic site, and was going to recommend that it be designated as a national historic site. The Committee expressed the hope that Ms. Van Tassel could attend the next meeting to update the Committee on the Town’s historic preservation priorities.

6. Funding for the Next Steps – Mr. Bassin noted that Grants Committee Chair Suzanne Bressler had said we needed to identify our priorities for near term CDBG funding by the end of July so we could have a detailed CDBG Strategic Plan to discuss with the CDBG during August. Mr. Bassin commented that we needed to have our next technical assistance planning grant application done by mid-November, and if we are interested, an application for a \$400,000 no-match renovation/restoration grant done my April 2010.

7. Senior Housing – Mr. Lutz raised the question of senior housing, and asked how that problem was dealt with in other towns. The committee discussed various forms of senior housing , including small group homes, assisted living facilities, nursing homes etc, and concluded that some of the larger empty homes in Ancram (Oliver House) might be convertible into a group home for seniors.

8. CDBG Strategic Plan Public Hearing – Mr. Bassin also commented that after the Committee finalized the CDBG Strategic Plan, we should schedule a public hearing on the plan to get formal community feedback before presenting the Plan to the Town Board. Mr. Bassin suggested a public hearing for some time in the early fall...maybe in mid-September.

9. Next Meeting – Wednesday August 19.

Meeting adjourned at 9 pm.