

Grants Committee & CDBG Committee

Joint Meeting

9/24/09

Members Present: Art Bassin, Suzanne Bressler, Jim Miller, Kit White

1. November Grant Deadline: Mr. Bassin noted that the application for the \$21,000 Technical Assistance Planning grant which would require a \$14,000 town match was due November 15, and for all practical purposes we had run out of time to apply. He also noted that during the two budget workshops he had attended, the idea applying for the planning grant had been briefly discussed but not included in the budget. Mr. Miller expressed concern that not applying for this grant might put us at a disadvantage when it came applying for the \$400,000 no match construction grant next April.

2. Possible Uses of the \$400,000 No-Match Construction Grant: The joint Committee discussed possibility of focusing the \$400,000 construction grant on Simons General Store with apartments upstairs and businesses or town offices (a historical center?) on the first floor and in the basement. The joint Committee concluded that investing the entire \$400,000 in one structure would not have much of a beneficial effect on the center of Ancram. Ms. Bressler suggested using the \$400,000 for a series of projects which would include intersection work, as well as stabilization or removal work on 6 or 7 buildings in the center of Ancram, including Simons, Stiehle, Tin Smith, Porters, the Little Store, Oliver House and other structures in and near the center of town. The joint Committee agreed that this kind of multiple structure use of the \$400,000 construction grant would be most beneficial to Ancram, as it could initiate renovation or demolition on a variety of buildings simultaneously, and perhaps attract private investors who would be willing to complete the renovation work started by the CDBG grant. Mr. Bassin and Ms. Bressler will explore this option with the CDBG when they meet with the CDBG in late October.

3. Ancram Marketing Brochure -- Ms. Bressler will discuss this in more detail next time.

4. Ancram Economic Development Corporation – Mr. Bassin mentioned that Copake has been working on creating an Economic Development Corporation, which was a way to stimulate private investment and grant funding in a community. Mr. Bassin indicated he would find out more from Charles Dodson in Copake and get back to the group.

5. Community Development Strategic Plan Public Hearing – Mr. Bassin suggested that the public hearing be scheduled after we finalize the Community Development Strategic Plan, which will happen after we have clarified how we can use the \$400,000 in CDBG construction grant funding. Before the public hearing it would be important that the Committee develop a set of concrete next steps for the Town to pursue, which could be reviewed with the Community at the public hearing. A public hearing late in November or early December may make sense.

6. Next Meetings: Mr. Bassin and Ms. Bressler will meet with the CDBG in Albany on Friday, 10/16. Next CDBG meeting will be 11/18 at 7 PM.