

**Town of Ancram
Comprehensive Plan Committee Meeting
January 5, 2009**

Comp Plan Members Present: Art Bassin, Barry Chase, Hugh Clark, Bonnie Hundt, Don MacLean, Kyle Lougheed, Leah Wilcox

Absent: Suzanne Bressler, Jim Miller

Others Present: Sheila Clark, Susan Bassin

The Comp Plan meeting was called to order by Chair Art Bassin at 7 PM. The minutes of the 12/15 meeting were approved.

1. Comp Plan Strategy Documents – Mr. Bassin reported that he had shared the Strategy Documents with the Town Board and members of the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the CDBG and Farmland Protection Plan Teams, the Town Highway Superintendent, members of the Fire Company and Fire Commissioners and the ZEO, and had received preliminary comments from four of the five Town Board members and from other town officials. To give the Committee time to review these comments, Mr. Bassin suggested reviewing the comments at our 5/12 meeting. The Committee also reviewed and made minor revisions to the drafts of the “Top Ten Things”, a one page summary of the Comp Plan strategies, the “Summary of Goals and Strategies”, the “Detailed Strategies” and the FAQs. The Committee decided that the Detailed Strategies, the FAQs and the Glossary of Terms, which are too bulky to be mailed to the Community, will be available in hard copy at the Town Hall and be emailed around and put on the Town web site starting on January 20, when the mailing inviting people to the Comp Plan Strategy Workshops was sent out.

2. Community Meetings on Strategies Set for February – The Committee decided to hold Community Workshops in February to review and discuss Comp Plan strategies from 7 to 9.30 PM on Monday, February 2 and 9, and from 9.30 AM to 12 noon on Saturday, February 7 and 14. The Committee agreed to a format which included a short introduction from the Committee, a presentation from Ms. Stolzenburg describing the background of the planning process leading to the development of the Vision, the Goals and Strategies, followed by questions from the audience. The Committee decided to use round tables, and following the presentations, to ask each table to spend 20 minutes preparing questions about the Plan and the Strategies based on 1) what additional clarifications were needed; 2) what they liked about the plan and strategies and 3) what suggestions they had to improve the plan and strategies. The Committee decided to use question cards and to start the Q&A process with the most common questions on the cards. Coffee and cookies will be served.

3. Adoption of Comp Plan – The Committee reviewed and revised a document drafted by Ms. Stolzenberg which outlined the steps the Town Board would go through to adopt the Comprehensive Plan. The key steps after the February Community workshops include 1) holding Comp Plan Committee sponsored public hearings in March, 2) presenting the Comp Plan to the Town Board, 3) additional Town board sponsored public hearings, 4)

securing County Planning Board Approval of the Plan, and finally, 5) Town Board adoption of the Plan by resolution.

4. Open Issues -- Mr. Bassin noted there were still open issues, including 1) the need to determine the proposed revisions to hamlet boundaries; 2) the need to determine the size of the proposed revisions to the hamlet commercial zones; 3) deciding what gets grandfathered; 4) finalizing the Comp Plan Document's organization and content; 5) finalizing key documents, like the Profile, the Introduction, the Implementation Plan and the Glossary.

5. CDBG Report: The CDBG Project team met on Wednesday, 12/17, expects to get revised concept drawings for the center of Ancram in the next week or two and will be working to develop ideas for an economic development plan.

6. Farmland Protection Plan Update: The Ag & Farmland Protection Plan Project Team met at 5 PM on January 5 to review its project plan and set a direction for 2009. We are still waiting for the contract from the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to officially receive funding for this effort.

7. Next Meetings: Mr. Bassin suggested the Committee plan to meet next on January 12, 19 and 26 to get ready for the February Workshops.

The meeting adjourned at 8.45 PM.