

**Town of Ancram
Town Board
Regular Meeting
January 20, 2022**

Present: Supervisor Arthur Bassin Councilman Hugh Clark
 Councilman David Boice Councilwoman Bonnie Hundt
 Councilwoman Amy Gold Town Clerk Monica Cleveland
 Highway Superintendent James Miller

The regular meeting of the Ancram Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Bassin at 7pm with a salute to the flag.

Mr. Bassin asked if there were any items on the agenda any member of the board needed to recuse themselves from. There were none.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilman Boice to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and have them placed on the record. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassin noted that the Iron Star project had withdrawn their petition to the town board. There were no questions at this time from any board members.

Ms. Jamie Purinton of the CAC gave the following 2021 report: 2021 ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Due to the Corona Virus, the Conservation Advisory Council met entirely by zoom in 2021 every month except July (due to the holiday). Although meeting by zoom has its limitations, we continued to be an active and productive council in terms of providing the town with advisory input and education on environmental conservation, and continued to make site visits in person when appropriate.

1. Planning Board: Erin Robertson provides monthly updates on activities of the Planning Board and seeks our advice on environmental issues. We reviewed two house sites within the scenic corridor on Route 22, house sites for a subdivision on Route 7, a brewery site on 22, a subdivision application for the Lampman Farm, and ongoing reviews for Ironstar. In all cases we made recommendations to Erin or wrote substantive recommendations to mitigate environmental impacts to the Planning Board. We await more responsive discussions between the CAC and the PB on our reviews.

2. After thoughtful and prolonged discussions throughout the summer, on October 12 we sent a memo to the Planning Board and Town Board calling for more substantive environmental reviews of applications, more rigorous discussions around “the maximum extent possible” and better adherence to due process (including need for minutes; providing information to PB, CAC and community in advance of meetings; and following the 10-day requirement for applications submittal prior to the meetings). We await a meeting with the Planning Board to discuss and hopefully resolve these issues. We expect the Town Board will need to weigh in on this given their role in appointing Planning Board members and overseeing the work of all boards.

3. The Roe Jan Watershed Association (RJWA) continued with water sampling at two locations in Ancram and 14 sites on the Roe Jan in May through October. We provided funding of \$160 (\$80 each) for these two sites to be tested six times at Bard Labs. The results are posted on the Bard College Water Lab site and the RJWA website <https://www.roejanwatershed.org/2021/11/30/roe-jan-2021-sampling-results/>.

Unfortunately, the results from 2021 showed a decline in water quality. As a result of heavy summer rains, the Roe Jan did not meet the EPA standards in July. When considering the whole season, the Roe Jan only slightly exceeded the EPA criteria.

4. CAC Ongoing Training:

All members attended the Sexual Harassment Training sessions in November.

CAC members attended these educational events: “Getting Old: What Next For Even-Aged Forests,” Cornell University Cooperative Extension; “Invasive Species Management,” Columbia Land Conservancy; “An Ecological Approach to Forest Stewardship,” Dutchess Land Conservancy and the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies; “Ecology and History of Northeast Forests and Threats to Northeast Forests and Goals, Inventory & Planning”; “Forestry Application of User-Friendly GIS/GPS,” Cornell University Cooperative Extension; “Solar Projects in 3 sessions: Local Review, Planning, and Zoning for Projects in Rural Areas,” Columbia Land Conservancy; Forest Management Demonstration Tour of the Rheinstrom Hill Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Hillsdale, demonstrating activities designed to improve forest health and bird habitat, including patch cuts with reserves, invasive plant control, and deer fence installation, New York Audubon and Natural Resources Conservation Service; DEC webinar “Protecting Wildlife Habitat through Land Use Planning;” “Water Quality Monitoring in the Hudson River Estuary: December 16, 2021; “Protecting Wildlife Connectivity Through Land Use Planning,” December 7, 2021; “Invasive Species Summit,” November 16-17, 2021; “Conservation Commissions Conference,” October 21-24, 2021; “Scenic Resource Protection in the Hudson River Valley,” June 15, 2021” Model Local Laws to Increase Resilience,” April 20, 2021.

5. We contributed to the ZRC on environmental related topics including:

- a. Substantial enhancements to environmental protection for Minor Subdivisions to be more consistent with existing protections for Major Subdivisions (the “Major/Minor memo”);
- b. Substantial enhancements to environmental protection for the Ridgeline and Steep Slopes Overlay District (the “RSSOP” memo);
- c. Creation of an Ancram Town Local Type 1 SEQR list (the “Local Type 1 SEQR” memo); and
- d. Enhanced Logging Permit requirements (the “Logging” memo).

6. We provided recommendations to plant a native tree grove to members of the Ancram Historical Committee for the Steihl House site. This will have even greater importance if the Ironstar Retreat goes forward, given that the hamlet views looking east will be impacted by the proposed Ironstar Retreat structures.

7. Walter Williamson initiated a plan for the Long Lake Community to retain a forest ecologist and, if needed, other experts, to guide the Association in managing its 165 acres of woodland (to promote regeneration of diverse tree species and maintain and improve the health of their woods) and to manage their meadows and fields to create more diverse wildlife habitat and assist pollinators.

8. We responded to community member inquiries, forwarded by Supervisor Bassin, on control of the invasive bittersweet and concern from Carson road neighbors regarding the potential application for Floods to move their septic operation to their Carson Road property.

9. By public request and with the support of the Doodletown Road community, we continue to ask DEC for an updated management plan with little response from DEC. Jane and Jono volunteered for their community invasive plant management day.

10. We prepared an in depth public memo on the value of forests – this memo was circulated in the winter Ancram Town Newsletter.

11. Colleen Lutz is making great progress on assembling updated Natural Resource map overlays that can be easily accessed by the Planning Board and other committees and town agencies. Part of this included procurement of ArcGIS software at a discount price of \$100.

12. We followed the good work of the Climate Smart Community Task Force and reviewed and supported their recommendations for sustainable energy use at Town Hall.

13. We worked with the Hillsdale CAC to develop recommendations for environmentally sensitive development of land. We received a grant from CLC for \$250 to print copies of this brochure. This brochure will be coming out shortly for distribution to developers, realtors and builders.

14. We participated in the CLC-coordinated Columbia County CAC roundtable in order to share what we are doing in Ancram and to learn from other CACs .

15. Amy Gold joined the CAC in October.

PLANS FOR 2022

1. Our budget for 2022 of \$2,500 will be used for the CAC brochure, Roe Jan Watershed Testing and the map overlay work.

2. We will continue to meet primarily by Zoom until the Corona Virus threat is no longer an issue.

3. Continue to provide input to the Planning Board on site plan reviews that have sensitive environmental factors including Ironstar.

4. Prepare public education memos on importance of preserving our water quality.

Reach out to the town about the health of the Roe Jan watershed, and provide recommendations on what we can do to improve the river water quality.

5. Continue to urge the town to take advantage of available grant money for energy conservation and climate change resilience.

6. Make ongoing recommendations on forest preservation and how we can update our regulations, following leadership of other area towns with model regulations.

7. Develop recommendations on the potential creation of Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs).

8. Training for town agencies, Town/Planning/ ZBA board members, and various committees on geospatial tools, including Google Earth and ArcGIS Online (AGOL).

Councilwoman Hundt asked about item #2 and what the CAC had in mind to this item. Ms. Purinton said that the CAC would like adequate discussion of environmental impact on all

projects. Councilwoman Gold noted that she is happy to be a part of the CAC. Councilman Boice felt that they were a great service to the town. Councilman Clark noted that the committee has a good manner when making recommended changes to zoning with the ZRC.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by a unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #1 of 2022: Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Grant – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Board approves a \$12,500 grant to the Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association to support the ANHNA’s 2022 food delivery program, and that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to allocate \$12,500 of the Town’s ARPA funds to support this award.

Technology Committee

Phil Hack of the Technology Committee gave an update on the committee’s progress. Mr. Hack reported that the committee has put into use an Owl and Television to allow for virtual meetings. The meetings are being posted to the town website. The committee is working on archiving Ancram Emails, looking into implementing a new phone system, worked on a transformer issue with the solar panels, purchasing a large TV for the meeting room, website updates and zoom training.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Boice and seconded by Councilwoman Gold and moved for adoption. Resolution carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #2 of 2022: ASHP Bids – Resolved, that the Ancram Town Supervisor is authorized to enter into a contract with Ginocchio Electric of Ancram NY to provide electrical system upgrades and a new generator in accordance with the Town RFP at a cost not to exceed \$56,000, and is further authorized to enter into a contract with McCourt Heating & Cooling of Wappingers NY for the installation of two packaged air source heat pumps in accordance with the Town RFP at cost not to exceed \$30,500.

Harassment Training Next Steps:

Mr. Jack Lindsey read the following statement into the record:

ANCRAM’S HISTORY OF WOMEN VOLUNTEERISM AND INVOLVEMENT IN TOWN

GOVERNANCE IS A LONG AND IMPRESSIVE ONE AND WE CAN LOOK AROUND TODAY

AND A SEE THE PIVOTAL ROLE WOMEN CONTINUE TO PLAY IN MAKING THE TOWN

FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY AND THOUGHTFULLY.

CONSIDER THE LONG ROLE OF THE WOMEN’S AUXILIARY OF THE FIRE COMPANY—

BARBARA SIMONS, KAY MACARTHUR AND THEIR TEAM. KAY AND BARBAR RAN OUR

POLLING STATIONS FOR YEARS WITH APLOMB.

OR JEN BOICE AND HER DAUGHTER YOHANNA WHO HAVE LONGED PROVIDED VITAL SERVICES TO KEEP US SAFE AND PROVIDE A SWIMMING POOL FOR THE COMMUNITY. OR THE WOMEN ON THE SUMMER CAMP COMMITTEE, WHO FIRST HAD THE IDEA FOR ANCRAM'S AMAZING SUMMER CAMP AND CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD ITS REOPENING AFTER COVID SUBSIDES.

AN EARLIER GROUP KNOWN AS THE ANCRAM ANGELS, HELPED LAY THE CHARITABLE GROUND WORK FOR WOMEN LIKE ANNE CARRIERE, ADRIENNE CITRIN, ANNIE WALLWYN JONES, JANE SHANNON AND OTHERS WHO WOULD LATER ESTABLISH ANCRAMDALE NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION.

WHEN COVID HIT, IT WAS MARY ANN ROCHE WHO CALLED ANCRAMDALE NEIGHBORS, AND —TOGETHER A NUMBER OF WOMEN IN THE COMMUNITY— SEWED AND DISTRIBUTED OVER 1500 FACE MASKS TO OUR COMMUNITY WHEN THEY WERE HARD TO COME BY.

WOMEN LIKE MARY BOICE, MONICA CLEVELAND AND RUTH WITTLINGER HAVE SERVED THE TOWN FOR DECADES. ALONG WITH ALL THE PAST AND PRESENT WOMEN WHO HAVE SERVED ON TOWN GOVERNMENT AND ITS VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES AND BOARDS. AND NOW, WE HAVE OUR FIRST WOMAN COURT JUSTICE, CATHY REDLICH.

SO WHY I AM HERE?— I AM NOT HERE TONIGHT REPRESENTING THE ETHICS BOARD, BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FOR EXAMINATION OF HARASSMENT CHARGES CALLING OUT INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR OF SPECIFIC PARTIES SERVING THE TOWN.

BUT AS CHAIR OF THE ETHICS BOARD, I HAVE FIELDDED APPROXIMATELY 15 CALLS OVER THE PAST YEAR AND HALF AND HAVE HAD NUMEROUS ADDITIONAL TELLING CONVERSATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF ANCRAM RESIDENTS-BOTH WOMEN AND MEN.

UNITING THEM ALL IS THE CONCERN ABOUT DISMISSIVE, SOMETIMES HOSTILE OR INAPPROPRIATE TREATMENT OF WOMEN WHO SERVE THE TOWN OR WHO COME TO TOWN HALL FOR CONSTITUENT SERVICES AT THE HANDS OF CERTAIN MEN PRESENTLY SERVING THE TOWN. SOME EXPERIENCED THIS BEHAVIOR DIRECTLY WHILE OTHERS OBSERVED IT. SEVERAL ON A RUNNING BASIS AS A THIRD PARTY DURING TOWN OR COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

TAKEN AS A GROUP, THESE CONVERSATIONS INDICATE TO ME THAT ANCRAM HAS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF RESIDENTS WHO FEEL THAT THERE IS ON-GOING, UNFAIR AND DISRESPECTFUL TREATMENT OF WOMEN. IT IS THIS WIDER FEELING OR APPEARANCE THAT THESE PROBLEMS EXIST IN OUR TOWN GOVERNANCE THAT IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE DETAILS, CIRCUMSTANCES AND VERACITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL COMPLAINTS.

ANOTHER APPEARANCE DYNAMIC THAT IS EQUALLY TROUBLING IS THE NUMBER OF TIMES THAT I HEARD A WOMAN SAY TO ME— “THEY’LL LISTEN TO YOU. YOU’RE A MAN” THAT SHOULD NOT BE. BUT IT EXISTS.

BUT WHAT I FIND MOST ALARMING IS THAT VERY FEW OF THESE PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO FILE A FORMAL COMPLAINT TO THE ETHICS BOARD TO INVESTIGATE THESE SITUATIONS BECAUSE THEY ARE AFRAID OF RETALIATION ,RIDICULE OR BULLYING. THIS PERCEPTION THAT SOME INDIVIDUALS SERVING THE TOWN ARE CAUSING PEOPLE TO BE RELUCTANT TO SPEAK OUT PUBLICLY TO THIS BAD BEHAVIOR IS MAINLY WHAT HAS BROUGHT ME HERE TONIGHT.

LATE IN NOVEMBER, I EMAILED EACH OF THE TOWN BOARD MEMBERS ABOUT THESE CONCERNS. ONLY TWO BOTHERED TO REPLY.

IN OTHER EARLIER CONVERSATIONS WITH TOWN LEADERSHIP ABOUT THESE CONCERNS, I WAS TOLD THAT THEY WERE ISOLATED CASES THAT

HAVE BEEN "BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION" BY TWO OR THREE WOMEN WHO FORMALLY COMPLAINED.

I CAN SEE HOW THIS FALSE IMPRESSION MIGHT HAVE TAKEN HOLD BECAUSE MANY OTHER WOMEN EXPERIENCING THIS SAME MISOGYNY HAVE BEEN AFRAID TO COME FORWARD TO REGISTER THEIR EXPERIENCES.

WHAT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION IS THAT THE DISRESPECT, ABUSIVE AND DISMISSIVE BEHAVIOR TOWARD A NUMBER OF ANCRAM WOMEN IS A WIDER, ONGOING PROBLEM.

FURTHER, MY OBSERVATION IS THAT THE LACK OF SWIFT, CORRECTIVE ACTION ON THE PART OF THE TOWN HAS EXACERBATED AND WIDENED THE PERCEPTION AND DEEPENED A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE IN EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE FROM OUR LOCAL LEADERS. THE TOWN'S RESPONSE TO PREVENT DESTRUCTIVE MISOGYNY NEEDS SOME REAL TEETH WITH COMMITMENT AND INTEGRITY. HARRASSMENT TRAINING HAS BEEN A GREAT FIRST STEP, BUT WE NEED TO TAKE STEPS TO STOP THE DISMISSIVE BEHAVIOR DEMONSTRATED BY SOME MEN SERVING THE TOWN.

HERE IS AN EXCERPT FROM A RECENT LETTER I RECEIVED FROM AN APPLICANT TO THE PLANNING BOARD: I HAVE DELETED THE NAMES, BUT I HAVE SUPPLIED A COPY TO EACH BOARD MEMBER WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE AUTHOR. WHILE THIS APPLICANT DID GET HER APPROVAL, IT IS THE EXPERIENCE OF HOW SHE WAS TREATED THAT SHOULD CONCERN US ALL.

"LAST SPRING I WAS AT THE MERCY OF———— WHO DERAILED MY APPLICATION TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR RENOVATION OF AN HISTORIC BARN ON MY PROPERTY.

———— GAVE ME BAD INFORMATION AND THEN PUBLICLY DENIED IT. OVERALL

———— TREATED ME WITH DISRESPECT AND WASTED MY TIME...

"ALL OF THIS HAS BEEN DULY NOTED AND THE COMPLAINTS I SENT TO THE TOWN

BOARD AND (CHAIR OF PLANNING BOARD) WERE NOT ACKNOWLEDGED BY ANYONE ON THE BOARD. THE CHAIR DID OFFER AN APOLOGY IN PERSON SOON THEREAFTER BUT REFUSED TO INCLUDE ME IN ANY KIND OF REPRIMAND OF _____, SO I NEVER LEARNED OF WHAT DID OR DID NOT HAPPEN AS A RESULT. I SUSPECT NOTHING DID.”

IN ANOTHER INSTANCE, I RECEIVED A CALL LAST NIGHT FROM A LOCAL WOMAN ACTIVE ON SEVERAL FRONTS IN OUR TOWN GOVERNMENT WHO RECOUNTED AN INAPPROPRIATE, ABUSIVE AND PROFANITY LACED CALL SHE RECEIVED RECENTLY FROM A CURRENT TOWN BOARD MEMBER. SHE FELT HARASSED, AND I BELIEVE HER.

IN ADDITION, SEVERAL PEOPLE EXPRESSED CONCERNS TO ME ASKING WHY A CURRENT VOLUNTEER SERVING THE TOWN HAS —THROUGH PAST INAPPROPRIATE MYSOGYNIST COMMENTS WHICH LED TO A COURT CASE COSTING THE TOWN SIGNIFICANT LEGAL FEES— IS STILL ALLOWED TO SERVE THE TOWN IN ANY CAPACITY? AS A VOLUNTEER SERVING THE TOWN FOR OVER 15 YEARS, IF MY COMMENTS OR ACTIONS CAUSED UNNECESSARY COURT COSTS, OR MY TREATMENT OF A CONSTITUENT WAS INAPPROPRIATE OR UNFAIR, I WOULD EXPECT TO BE REMOVE FROM MY POSITION IMMEDIATELY.

I KNOW THAT IN THE PAST IT HAS BEEN CHALLENGING TO GET ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON OUR NECESSARY TOWN COMMITTEES, BUT GIVEN THE NUMEROUS RESPONSES RECEIVED TO THE TOWN’S RECENT CALL FOR PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS, THIS MAY NO LONGER BE THE CASE. THE TOWN CAN AFFORD TO DISMISS A BAD ACTOR WHO SEEMS TO BE CAUSING DESTRUCTIVE SENTIMENTS.

WHAT I’VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT IS A SYSTEMIC PROBLEM THAT HAS LED TO THE NEED FOR HARASSMENT TRAINING IN THE FIRST PLACE. AS TO THE HARASSMENT TRAINING ITSELF HERE ARE A FEW EASILY ENACTED IMPROVEMENTS:

1. EVERY PERSON SERVING THE TOWN MUST REGISTER FOR AND ATTEND THE TRAINING SESSION INDIVIDUALLY, ON THEIR SEPARATE COMPUTER OR ELECTRONIC DEVICE.

2. DEPARTMENTS WHO WANT TO ATTEND AS A GROUP CAN DO SO AS LONG AS THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS ARE FOLLOWED.

3.

4. THE PRESENTER SHOULD ASK AT THE END OF THE TRAINING SESSION FOR A ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED INDIVIDUAL ATTESTMENT FROM EACH PERSON ATTENDING THAT THEY HAVE BEEN BOTH PRESENT AND AN ATTENTIVE DURING THE ENTIRE TRAINING.

5.

6. ANY TOWN AGENT FOUND TO BE IN VIOLATION OF THESE GUIDELINES IS SUBJECT TO DISMISSAL.

PERHAPS THE TOWN SHOULD CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF EQUALITY COUNCIL

COMPOSED INTERESTED PARTIES TO HELP GUIDE THE TOWN AND DEFINE A ROUTE TO

IMPROVE THESE CONCERNS AND TO FOSTER WIDER ACCEPTANCE OF DIVERSE

OPINIONS.

I WOULD BE HAPPY TO ASK AROUND TO THOSE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

SERVING. IT WOULD ONLY WORK IF THE TOWN LEADERSHIP GIVES THEM AUTHORITY

TO PARTICIPATE AS ANY OTHER COMMITTEE —WITH POLICY GUIDANCE AND

LEGITIMATE POSITIONING WITHIN THE TOWN GOVERNMENT.

SO, IN CLOSING, I 'M ASKING ALL OF YOU TO TAKE THESE OBSERVATIONS AND THIS

ON-GOING PROBLEM SERIOUSLY, WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY SHOULD NOT HAVE TO

QUESTION IF THEY WILL BE RESPECTED AND LISTENED TO AS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL,

A VOLUNTEER OR CONSTITUENT . BY NOT AGGRESSIVELY ANSWERING THESE

CONCERNS, YOU'RE JEOPARDIZING THE GREAT AND THOUGHTFUL PROGRESS ANCRAM

HAS ACHIEVED IN THE LAST YEARS UNDER YOUR ADMINISTRATION AND THE MUCH

NEEDED, VIBRANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE ARE

SMALL ENOUGH AS A COMMUNITY TO BE ABLE TO MAKE THIS RIGHT FOR ALL OF US

AND TO BE A NOTABLE EXAMPLE FOR OTHER TOWNS.

Councilwoman Hundt commented that this issue as described by Mr. Lindsey is an ongoing issue. She noted that the world is changing, that the town is changing and that there are people who wish to serve. She felt that there are people observing meetings and they can see the problems. Ms. Hundt felt that the town needs to move in the right direction and that women need to be able to serve with their talents. She stressed that complaints need to be taken more seriously.

Mr. Lindsey said that in few cases, what is charged is correct, yet those in the wrong continue to be allowed to serve on committees and because of this the town is not providing a healthy and safe work environment. Councilwoman Gold thanked Jack and said that she had seen the issue immediately and it was what inspired her to run for office. She felt there needs to be a zero tolerance policy and that training is just words and that there needs to be accountability. Councilman Boice agreed that training needs to be looked at and that the beginning would be having in person training. Councilman Clark said that he has more questions and that he felt that training needs to be interactive. Supervisor Bassin felt that there needs to be a safe way for people to come forward so that there can be action. He stated that he has not received 15 phone calls. He liked the idea of an equality committee. Mr. Lindsey said that many of the issues stem from a hired clerk in the planning department. Councilwoman Hundt stressed that she felt there needs to be a procedure in place. Mr. Bassin said that the planning board chair should be addressing the complaints with the planning board. At this point in the meeting, Mr. Bassin said that these comments need to be discussed in Executive session as they deal with hired employees. Mary Murfitt noted that the planning board seems to be allowed to police themselves. She said that there are complaints of men talking over women, laughing at them, calling women names.

Jamie Purinton read the following statement into the record:

First of all I want to thank Jack Lindsey for bringing the topic of sexual harassment to the Town Board last night. And it took courage for each and every women to voice their concerns. I agree with Jack's description "that women working on behalf of the Town are being bypassed, ignored, disrespected, and made uncomfortable by some currently serving elected and/or volunteer agents of the Town." And that the "disrespectful behavior toward women is on-going, and that you all as our leaders have not done enough to seriously examine and attempt to remedy the problem."

I have in fact raised concerns about this to town board members, and my concerns have been overlooked and dismissed. In the recent sexual harassment training I shared an example (without disclosing any names) of some of the behavior of men in town meetings and the trainer reacted to one example with the statement: "that is definitely an example of sexual harassment." However some members of the town board have failed to see this or to seriously deal with a pattern of misogyny.

Not only have I experienced this but I have witnessed numerous women being bullied, dismissed and disrespected in Town meetings. This behavior would not be tolerated in most workplace settings and is certainly not what I encounter with the many male contractors that I interact with daily. What good is the sexual harassment training if it is not taken seriously and if there is no consequence to poor behavior?

Change starts with recognizing the problem, individually acknowledging past poor and hurtful behavior and apologizing for your lack of leadership. Otherwise we will not trust the leadership. Then let's move forward with leadership willing to take action on treating everyone with the respect they deserve.

Jane Plasman read the following statement into the record:

I too, want to thank Jack Lindsey for bringing this situation to the attention of the Town Board as well as the Ancram community at large.

I'm going to organize my comments under the umbrella of showing respect, or disrespect as the case may be.

While there are many behaviors that fall under the umbrella of showing disrespect, I've observed 2 key behaviors that I believe fit that bill, when I've participated in or observed various town government meetings.

One behavior, is when a town official speaks to another person...on the board, committee or in the audience... in a very condescending and patronizing manner, such that it comes across to that person in a "dumbing down manner". The speaker feels the need to do this because they believe they are more intelligent and experienced than the other person, and unless they dumb it down for them, they couldn't possibly understand. This kind of behavior has been described by women and even some men, as "mansplaining". I have observed this kind of behavior at different town government meetings ...to include town board meetings, planning board meetings, and comp plan meetings. When someone uses condescending language and patronizes you, that is showing disrespect, not respect. And that kind of behavior is not only hurtful and disrespectful, it's infuriating...to anyone, but particularly when you're a woman.

The other behavior that I've observed in various meetings, I believe also falls under the area of disrespect rather than respect, and that's when someone "shhhes" you, or talks over you, or cuts you off, or laughs at you. That doesn't show respect... that shows disrespect... and that kind of behavior too, is not only hurtful and disrespectful, it's also infuriating.

Again, I have witnessed these kinds of behaviors in several town government meetings, and I think it's very troubling. I would hope that town elected or appointed government officials, would check themselves before they exhibit these kinds of behaviors, because as I said it's not only hurtful and disrespectful, it's infuriating, and is not exemplary of well run town government.

Finally, I think that the specific words, tone of voice and demeanor that town officials exhibit is also very important. I had a recent telephone exchange with a town official, where I was yelled at in a very loud and menacing voice and in addition, I was assaulted with a barrage of very profane language. We were in disagreement about something, but I don't think I deserved to be on the other side of this very profane language and menacing tone of voice. I believe that had I been face to face with this person during this exchange, I might have been afraid. The good news is, I have received an apology from this person.

So I hope this feedback is taken in the way in which it is intended....that we all need to treat each other with the respect and the dignity that we all long for. Thank you.

Dave Robertson spoke. He noted that an atmosphere such as that described is corrosive to volunteers. He felt that while training is good, it is only such if followed through.

B Docktor read the following statement into the minutes:

Dear Town Board Members,

It has come to my attention that tonight's meeting will include discussion of the treatment of women. I have two instances I feel I should share, now that the issue is on the table.

Years ago, I served on the Planning Board during the time that Don MacLean was the head of the board. I don't remember the years, but other members were Jamie Purinton, Madeline Israel, Terry Boyles, Dennis Sigler, and Jim Stickle.

During that period there weren't any big contentious developments being planned. But I distinctly remember the tension that would come up when Jamie would give voice to rules and concerns over environmental issues pertaining to an application. Jamie and Don were both extremely knowledgeable about these issues and both would

Speak up. How can I say it but to note that there was a demeaning of Jamie that never happened when Don spoke. It was uncomfortable for me to be at the table, so I got off the board.

The second instance is a personal one to do with me and the Ancram Fire Company. Again, many years ago, and I don't remember the year. I told the Chief that I'd like to volunteer and he noted that I would be perfect as a driver since I live so close to the fire department. He said, I'll send you an application. I didn't get it. A few months later, I mentioned it, and he said, "oh sorry—I'll send you the application." I never received one. At the Memorial Day Parade that year, while I was photographing, I told one of the members that I wanted to volunteer and hadn't received the application. He told me he would "take care of" me and personally see to it that I got the application. Never happened. What should a person make of this?

Based on these dismissive experiences, I've retreated from volunteering in Ancram.

James Kennedy read the following statement into the record:

Dear Board Members, I wish the following to be submitted and shared with your colleagues and those in attendance at the meeting this evening. In light of the recent revelations in regard to the treatment of our female friends and valued members of our community workforce, we wholeheartedly support the effort in affecting the necessary change in what has clearly become an unhealthy and counterproductive environment. Our personal experience of gender alienation and marginalization color our views of this significantly. Subsequently, we urge, at all costs, that this behavior not be tolerated, and those that endorse and enable it renew their vows to human rights, dignity, respect, and fairness. Speaking to the topic of the forth-coming appointments and re-appointments; I quote: "It must become culturally acceptable for men to subordinate their career prospects to allow women to succeed." Peter Mathieson, Hong Kong University

Councilwoman Hundt said that she is not in agreement with a committee. She felt the town needs to have a policy. Mr. Lindsey said that the feeling is that people are not heard. He noted that people have written to the town board and had very little response. Councilwoman Hundt noted that Councilman Clark, in regards to the ZRC, leads a very good meeting and is evenhanded and fair.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolution carried.

Resolution #3 of 2022: Employee Handbook – Resolved, that the 2022 Employee Handbook is approved as presented.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolution carried.

Resolution #4 of 2022: Fee Schedule – Resolved, that the 2022 Fee Schedule is approved as presented.

The following resolutions were offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolutions carried.

Resolution #4 Proposed 2022 Organizational Resolutions

1. Legal Representation: Resolved that the Town of Ancram will continue current arrangements with attorneys John Lyons, Mitchell Khosrova and Elena Defio-Kean to provide legal services for the Town of Ancram during 2022. Services will be provided as requested by the Town Board, and by Town Departments, Boards and Committees with prior approval of the Town Supervisor, at agreed on hourly rates; further resolved that the Ethics Board, Planning Board, the Zoning

Board of Appeals, the Zoning Revisions Committee and the Subdivision Regulations Revision Committee may use these designated attorneys, or retain legal counsel of their choice, subject to the prior approval of the Town Board.

2. Property and Liability Insurance: Resolved that the Ancram Town Board accepts the proposal of the Kneller/Brad Peck Agency to renew the property, inland marine, automobile, public officials, general liability and liability umbrella insurance coverage through the Tokio Marine HCC Company beginning January 4, 2022 for a premium not to exceed \$27,500.

3. Appointments and Designations: Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Ancram does hereby make or reaffirm the following official appointments and designations for the year 2022, with all appointments to continue at the pleasure of the Board, except as otherwise noted.

Appointments

Budget Officer: Art Bassin

Deputy Town Supervisor: Hugh Clark

Town Attorneys: John Lyons, Elena Defio-Kean, Mitchell Khosrova

Town Engineers: CPL Engineering, Pat Prendergast

Town Historian: Robin Massa

Deputy Town Historian: Clara Van Tassel

Town Hall Building Manager: TBD

Deputy Town Hall Building Manager: TBD

Town Assessor: Rene Deleeuw (appointed through September 2026)

Assessor's clerk: Monica Cleveland

Building Inspector, Zoning Enforcement and Code Enforcement officer: Ed Ferratto

Deputy Building Inspector – TBD

Clerk for Building Inspector/ ZEO/CEO: John Lascari,

Animal Control Officer: Richard Prentice

Emergency Preparedness Coordinators: Art Bassin, Jim Miller, Dave Boice, Devon Rueger

Registrar of Vital Statistics: Monica Cleveland

Records Management Officer: Monica Cleveland

Foil Officer: Monica Cleveland

Clerks of the Town Court: Ruth Wittlinger; Susan Tirante

Planning Board/ZBA Clerk: J Hoffman

Deputy Planning Board/ZBA Clerk - TBD

Deputy Town Clerk: Ruth Wittlinger,

Deputy Tax Collector: Ruth Wittlinger,

Kid's Summer Camp Director: TBD

Ancram Pool Director: Jen Boice

Head lifeguard: TBD

Town Accountant: Brian Fitzgerald

Insurance agent & agencies: Kirk Kneller – Kneller, Brad Peck, Lofgren & Apollo agencies

Town Designations

Official Town Bank/Depositories: Bank of Greene County, TD Bank

Town Justices Depositories: Key Bank, Bank of Greene County

Town Clerk Depository: Bank of Greene County

Town Tax Collector Depository: Bank of Greene County

Official Newspapers: The Register Star and the Columbia Paper

Official Dog Kennels: Columbia Greene Humane Society, Fraser Kennels

Town Representatives to Columbia County

Representatives to the Advisory Council to the Office of the Aging: Madeleine Israel, Erma Bressler

Representative to the Columbia County Traffic Safety Board: Bill Gillers

Representative to the County Environmental Management Council: Colleen Lutz

Official Polling Places

District #1: Ancram Town Hall

District #2: Friendship Hall, Ancramdale Presbyterian Church

4. Frequency of Compensation: The Town Board of the Town of Ancram does hereby authorize the Town Supervisor to compensate Officials of the Town for duties performed on the following basis:

Annually: Town Historian, Assistant Town Historian

Quarterly: Town Board, Town Supervisor, Town Justices, and Town Hall Building Manager

Monthly: Pool Director

Every other week: Highway Department Personnel, Animal Control Officer, Assessor, Town Clerk, Registrar, Tax Collector, ZEO/CEO; summer life guards and kids' camp staff, Camp Director, Head Lifeguard, Planning and Zoning Board Clerks, Building Department Clerk, Court Clerks, Town Hall Cleaning Custodian, Assessor's clerk

5. Authorizations, Policies & Procedures: Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Ancram approves the following authorizations, policies & procedures:

5.1 The Highway Superintendent and Town Supervisor are authorized to spend up to \$5,000 for unbudgeted items without prior Town Board approval, and are authorized to purchase budgeted materials and services up to the amount in the approved highway and general fund budgets without prior Town Board approval.

5.2 Mileage reimbursement for Town Officials performing their duties on Official Town Business will be set at the IRS rate per mile.

5.3 The Town Board may accept bids from any NYS County and State bids that apply to the Town of Ancram, including but not limited to gasoline, propane, heating oil, diesel fuel, salt, stone, road oil, tires and culvert pipe, so long as State and County bids are equal to or less than locally available alternatives, but the Town Board may also select suppliers that are not the best price but provide, in the judgement of the Town Board, the best value based on reliability and service.

5.4 Salaries and per hour pay rates for elected and appointed officials and employees for the year 2022 will be in accordance with the approved 2022 budget.

5.5 The official meeting of the Ancram Town Board will be the third Thursday of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Ancram Town Hall, 1416 County Route 7.

5.6 Salaries for appointed clerks will be recommended by the Budget Officer and approved by the Town Board as part of the budget process.

5.7 The Town Clerk is authorized to advertise for, accept and open all bids presented before this Board, with such bids in sealed envelopes, marked "sealed bids".

5.8 Departmental clerks are authorized to purchase all necessary supplies, stationery office equipment and dockets on behalf their departments not to exceed total budgeted amounts included in the 2022 budgets for such purchases as part of each department's budgeted .4 account, in accordance with the approved Town Purchasing Policy.

5.9 The Town Supervisor and Deputy Town Supervisor are each authorized to sign Town checks less than \$10,000 without having them countersigned. Checks for \$10,000 and more must be signed by both the Town Supervisor and the Deputy Supervisor. If either the Supervisor or Deputy Supervisor is unavailable to countersign a check of \$10,000 or more, any Town Board member is authorized to provide the second signature.

5.10 All conferences and training attended by any Town official or employee and paid for by the Town in excess of \$100 must be approved, in advance, by the Town Board. Training and conferences that will be attended by the Town Supervisor or any Town Board member and paid for by the Town of Ancram in excess of \$200 must be approved, in advance, by the Town Board.

5.11 Town purchasing policies will follow standard NYS purchasing guidelines unless otherwise specified in the approved Town Purchasing Policy Document.

5.12 Town investment policy is to maintain funds in interest bearing money market or liquid investment accounts with the Town's depository banks, with deposits over FDIC insured limits collateralized by securities pledged by the Town's depository bank or their agents or by letters of credit. In rate environments when short term US treasury securities offer significantly higher yields than bank money market rates, the Town Supervisor is authorized to invest town funds in short term US treasury securities purchased through the town's depository banks and their brokerage affiliates. The Town Supervisor shall report all trades in short term US treasury securities and the Town's net position in US treasury securities to the Town Board and the Financial Advisory Council monthly, as part of the Town's normal monthly financial reporting process.

5.13 Town will follow NYS and Town of Ancram FOIL laws, and will respond to FOIL requests within 20 business days, except in situations where the amount of information requested is significant enough to make the 20 business day turnaround impractical. There will be a 25 cent per page fee for all documents requested.

5.14 The Ancram Town Board will hold a public hearing on the Tentative Budget prior to the September Town Board meeting, a second public hearing on the Preliminary Budget prior to the October Town Board meeting and will consider the annual Budget for approval at the November Town Board meeting following a third public hearing.

5.15 To insure that the Town has adequate financial reserves to operate during the first two months of the year before current year taxes are received, to finance grant awards and CHIPS costs, to make periodic major equipment purchases without borrowing and to deal with unexpected or uncontrollable expense overruns or revenue shortfalls, and to deal with the unpredictable financial impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Town will maintain year-end fund balances totaling approximately 1.5X the amount of county, state and federal aid and grants received in the previous year, and based on receiving sales tax, mortgage tax, and CHIPS aid totaling approximately \$800,000 in 2021, that the Budget Officer will manage the Town's financial affairs to target a 2022 year-end fund balance totaling approximately \$1,200,000.

5.16 The Ancram Town Board will annually review and revise, if necessary, the Town Employee Manual, the Town Purchasing Policy, the Town Financial Control Process Manual, the Town Fee Schedule and the Town Hall Directory.

5.17. Whereas Town Law requires the Town Board to audit the Supervisor's financial records before January 20 of each year, and whereas prior year financial reports and records are not usually available by January 20, therefore it is the policy of the Ancram Town Board that the Ancram Town Board will review and audit, or have reviewed and audited by an outside auditor or the Financial Advisory Council, following NYS Comptroller Division guidelines, the books and records of the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and Town Tax Collector and the books and records of the Building Department and Town Court annually, prior to the end of May each year.

5.18 The Ancram Town Board authorizes and requires all department heads to back up and store, outside of Town Hall and the Town Garage, all computer data needed to operate their departments at an alternate location in the event the current Town Hall or Highway Garage locations become unavailable for any reason; the Town Board further designates the Ancram Highway Garage and the Lutheran Church in Ancram as the Town Hall disaster recovery backup locations, designates the Town Hall as the Highway Department disaster recovery location, and authorizes the Town Supervisor to develop a disaster recovery plan which will allow the Town to reestablish Town Hall or Highway Department operations within 48 hours of a disaster forcing the closing of either the Town Hall or the Highway Garage.

5.19 The Ancram Town Board delegates to the Town Supervisor, and in his absence the Deputy Town Supervisor, the powers and duties necessary for the day-to-day administration of the Town.

5.20 Community organizations are authorized to use town facilities subject to the prior approval of the Town Supervisor, and subject to the community organization securing appropriate insurance to protect the Town from any liability arising out of the community organization's use of Town facilities.

5.21 The Highway Superintendent is authorized to enter into mutual aid agreements with NYS, counties, towns, villages, school districts and fire districts to provide support for and to receive support from these governmental entities; the Highway Superintendent shall notify the Town Board of all mutual aid agreements, and file a copy of each agreement with the Town Clerk.

5.22 The Highway Superintendent will submit the proposed annual 284 Contract to the Town Board for review and approval at or before the January Town Board meeting.

5.23 To insure bills are paid in a timely manner, the Town Supervisor or Deputy Town Supervisor in his absence, are authorized to pay bills without the prior approval of three Town Board members provided that the Town Board, Town Clerk and Town Accountant are notified of this action on the day of the payment, and Town Board approval is secured on the voucher as soon as possible, but no later than the next Town Board meeting.

5.24 The Town of Ancram will offer direct deposit of payroll to any employee who requests this service and provides the necessary information to the Town Supervisor or to the Town Clerk.

6. Appointments and Reappointments of Chairs, Members and Alternates of Boards, Committees, Councils, Task Forces and Hamlet Planning Groups:

That the Town Board of the Town of Ancram does hereby approve the following committee, commission, council, task force, hamlet planning group and board, appointments and reappointments of Chairpersons and members as indicated. All

appointments are at the pleasure of the Board unless otherwise noted or governed by applicable law:

Camp/Pool Board

Jane Plasman, Co-chair Madeleine Israel, Co-chair

Colleen Lutz Jeff Mousseau Sarah Mason

Monica Cleveland Ruth Wittlinger Marie McDermott

Betsy Manzi Carrie Koch Alissa Cleveland

Jen Boice Lynne Perrella Samantha Mason

Johanna Skoda Paul Ricciardi

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA): (5 year terms expiring 12/31 of year listed)

Reappointment: Ron Brant, 2026

Steve Olyha, 2024, Chair Fred Schneeberger 2023

William Lutz, 2022 Sharon Cleveland, 2025

Alternate: Rob Horwitz, 2022 Second alternate: Carol Falcetti, 2025

Board of Assessment Review (BAR): (5 year terms expiring 12/31 of year listed)

Reappointment: Palmer Irving 2026

Matthew Bernstein 2024, Chair

Steve Olyha 2022 Frederique Abramovici 2023

Will Weiss 2025 Alternate: Joe Brown, 2025

Planning Board (PB): (7 year terms expiring 12/31 of the year listed)

Appointment: Palmer Irving 2028

John Ingram, 2027, Chair

James Stickle 2026 Erin Robertson 2023 Joe Crocco, 2024 Bob Roche, 2025 Ann Rader 2022

Colleen Lutz, Alternate, 2028 Phillip Hack, Second alternate, 2028

Ethics Board (5 year terms ending 12/31 of the year indicated):

Reappointment: Jack Lindsey, Chair 2026

Ron Brant, 2022 Linda Pulver, 2023

Jane Plasman, 2024 Eric Weiner, 2025

David Dembo, Alternate, 2026 Sheila Gowan, Second alternate, 2026

Zoning Revisions Committee (ZRC):

Hugh Clark, Chair Dennis Sigler Erin Robertson

Jim Miller Bob Roche Carol Falcetti

Steve Olyha Bonnie Hundt Kim Tripp

Communications Committee (Signage, Newsletters, Directory)

Chair –TBD

Madeleine Israel Cathy Redlich Marie Claude Stockl

B. Docktor Bonnie Slonevsky Suzan Flamm

Conservation Advisory Council (CAC):

Jamie Purinton, Chair David Dembo, Vice Chair

Erin Robertson Choral Eddie Amy Gold

Kim Tripp Colleen Lutz Jane Meigs

Jono Meigs Walter Williamson

Financial Advisory Council

Art Bassin, Chair Mike Citrin Bob Wilcox

Steve Roberts Marie McDermott Peter Scola

Steve Olyha Will Weiss Ann Rader

Hugh Clark Jim Miller Carol Falcetti

Climate Smart Communities Task Force

Suzan Flamm, Chair

Madeleine Israel Doug Brenner Jeff Mousseau

Cathy Redlich Colleen Lutz Derek Porter

Paul Ricciardi Susan Arterian

Broadband Committee

Sid Karmali, Chair Phil Dejan Joel Osofsky

Monument Committee (Design of new veterans' monument at Town Hall)

Jim MacArthur, Chair David Boice John Perrella

Hugh Clark Bob Wilcox Art Bassin

Economic Development (Town Centers, Affordable Housing, STRS, Traffic/Parking)

Paul Ricciardi, Chair Phil Dejan Dave Hall Bonnie Hundt

Ancram Hamlet Planning Group

Paul Ricciardi Jeff Mousseau Lynne Perrella

Libby McKee Mike Roberts Ann Rader

Jay Corcoran, Chair Frederique Abramovici Cheryl McGuinness

B Doctor Robin Massa Jaclyn Ryan

Santina Tirone James Kennedy Bob Bachler

Alexa Knight Mary Watkins Bob and Liz Dellureficio

Nancy Grilikhes Susan Arterian Amy Allen

Boston Corner Hamlet Planning Group

Carol Falcetti. Chair Jason Bram Gavin Berger

Craig Berggren Monica Blum Tom Brondolo

Stephen Bundshuh Dominick Buttner Beth Corteville Angela Darling Bruce Darling Jed Dioguardi

Vanessa Dioguardi Chris Hiserodt Monica Hiserodt Jim Grayson Robert Lemieux Brian O'Shea

Norman Osofsky Frank Schroeder Lisa Schwartz

Larry Stockl Marie-Claude Stockl Kristin Trautman

Anne Whitehouse Stephen Whitehouse Naomi Wolf

Trails Committee

Bob Dittus Mary Watkins David Fedzcuk, Chair

Woody Baxt Joe Brown Christine Brown

Dan Osofsky Lawrence Moss Gideon King

Diane King Matthew Bernstein

Accident Review Committee

Hugh Clark, Chair

David Boice

Jim Miller

Technology Committee

Philip Hack, Chair Steve Olyha

Mike Citrin Michael DelRossi

Strategic Investments Committee

Will Weiss, Chair Suzan Flamm Mike Citrin

Bob Wilcox Carol Falcetti Steve Olyha

Peter Scola Ann Rader Paul Ricciardi

Inactive Committees

Subdivision Regulations Revision Committee (SRRC)

Agricultural Advisory Council (AAC)

Heritage Resources Committee

Ancramdale Hamlet Planning Group

Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee

7. Process for Appointments and Reappointments of Chairs, Members and Alternates of Boards, Committees, Councils, Task Forces and Hamlet Planning Groups:

Appointments to the four Boards with limited membership and fixed terms - the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Ethics Board and Board of Assessment Review - are made by the Town Board based on the recommendation of the Board Chair.

When a Board member's term expires, that individual shall be reappointed if she/he is interested in reappointment and there are no issues of concern to the Board Chair or the Town Board.

If the incumbent is not reappointed, the first alternate shall be considered for appointment for the open Board position.

When an alternate position on one of these four Boards is vacant, the Town will advertise for applicants via Ancramemail and by public notice, and an interview committee consisting of the Board Chairperson, at least two members of the Board and up to two Town Board members will be convened to interview the applicants and recommend appointments to the Town Board.

The Town Supervisor and Chairpersons of other committees, councils, task forces, hamlet planning groups and boards are responsible for recruiting members and recommending appointments to the Town Board.

Supervisors Report

1. Financial Report – Another normal financial month. We ended the year with about \$1.46 million in cash as expected. Our December financial reports will not be available until near the end of the month but will not show any surprises.

2. Iron Star Petition – Iron Star has asked that the Town Board “adjourn” consideration of their Petition to move 13.27 acres from the Ancram Hamlet District to the Agricultural District until the February Board meeting so they can update their plans. They requested the same adjournment from the Planning Board. I have advised Iron Star that we plan to discuss their Petition at our January 20 meeting, but we will not make any decision on whether to accept, reject or postpone action on the request until our February meeting. At the January 20 meeting I plan to ask Attorney John Lyons to discuss the legal issues related to the Petition, and Planner Nan Stolzenburg to discuss the planning issues related to the Petition. Following these presentations, Town Board members will have an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about the Petition proposal. The Town’s Comprehensive Plan arguably supports both the proposed rezoning as part of the Ag District and the current zoning as part of the hamlet. The major issue we will have to deal with is whether granting this request could be considered “spot zoning” and therefore be illegal. Spot zoning apparently occurs when a parcel is rezoned only for the benefit of the property owner and does not have overall benefits for the entire Community. We will explore this “spot zoning” issue with our attorney and ask Iron Star for an explanation on how rezoning the 13.27 acres benefits the entire Community.

3. ASHP RFP – We have received one bid (at \$55,869) for the electrical and generator upgrades from Ginocchio Electric, Ancram NY and one bid (at \$30,500) for the air source heat pumps themselves from McCourt Heating & Cooling, Wappingers NY. Lead time for the electrical upgrades and delivery time for the air source heat pumps is at least 6 months. We will be considering resolutions to enter into contracts with these firms to implement the new HVAC system.

4. Technology Committee - Our newly formed Technology Committee has made excellent progress in a very short time. Chair Philip Hack and members Michael Del Rossi and Steve Olyha have implemented a Zoom process that allows us to host combined in person & remote meetings, are recording and posting, via You Tube, Town Board and Planning Board meetings on the website, are developing a proposal to replace our current phone system with an internet-based system, are planning a series of technology training sessions for town residents, are looking at improving the town website and are looking into our Town Hall solar panels to see if we can make them more efficient and less noisy.

5. Local Law #1 of 2022- Zoning Amendments – Hugh will be presenting LL#1 for approval. We have already adopted a negative declaration on this law, and the County has indicated they have no problems with it.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Gold and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #5 of 2022: Town Assessor Authority to Grant Exceptions on the 2022

Town Assessment Roll - WHEREAS, on December 26, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul issued Executive Order No. 11, declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire State of New York due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and **WHEREAS**, this State disaster emergency has resulted in limited hours in municipal offices in the Town of Ancram and rendered senior citizens and individuals with disabilities residing in the Town of Ancram homebound. These factors combined have made it difficult, if not impossible, for many in these populations to file their real property tax exemption applications in person and many, further, lack the ability to file such applications online; and **WHEREAS**, in recognition of the above problems caused by the pandemic, Governor Hochul issued Executive Order No. 11.1 on December 26, 2021, thereby extending Executive Order No. 11. This extension of the Governor’s Executive Order modifies subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of section 459-c of the Real Property Tax Law and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of the Real Property Tax Law, the effect of which permits the governing body of an assessing unit (i.e., the Town Board of the Town of Ancram to adopt a Resolution directing the Assessor to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all property owners who received such exemptions on the 2021 assessment roll (i.e., senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income), thereby dispensing with the need for such persons to file renewal applications to request such exemptions, and further dispensing with the requirement that assessors mail renewal applications to such persons; and **WHEREAS**, Executive Order 11.1 further allows the governing body of said assessing unit, in any such Resolution, at its option, to include procedures by which its Town Assessor may require a renewal application to be filed if he has reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll may have since changed his or her primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner or died; and **WHEREAS**, pursuant to said Executive Order, the Town Board of the Town of **Ancram** wishes to adopt such Resolution directing the Town Assessor of the Town of Ancram to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all eligible senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income, and granting the Town Assessor of the Town of Ancram the authority to require renewal applications for due cause, as discussed above, utilizing procedures outlined below;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order No. 11.1, issued by the Governor of the State of New York, that the Town Board of the Town of Ancram hereby directs the Town Assessor of the Town of Ancram to:

1. Grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all individuals who received the senior exemption on the 2021 assessment roll and all individuals who received the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll because they were recognized as a person with disabilities and limited income, thereby dispensing with the need for any such individuals to file renewal applications

for such exemptions, except that;

2. The Town Assessor may, in his sole discretion, require a renewal application to be timely filed with his office if he has reason to believe that any such individual, who qualified for the aforementioned exemption on the 2021 assessment roll, may have since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed for the relevant property, transferred such property to a new owner or died. If the Town Assessor requires such renewal application be filed, he shall notify the owner of the subject property of such requirement by regular mail, with such notice shall containing instructions on how to file the renewal application. Said renewal application may be returned by mail or by making an appointment to drop same off at the Town Assessor's office, **1416 County Route 7, Ancram NY 12502.**

Board Member Comments:

Councilwoman Hundt reported that in regards to the census email, the town does not have to do this. She noted that she has not had any housing meetings lately. She said that she is looking at the Sharon Ridge model. Councilwoman Hundt asked about the Flood septic situation on Sawchuk road. Mr. Bassin said that he has not heard anything further on it.

Councilwoman Gold said that she is continuing to work with the CAC specifically invasive control.

Councilman Boice said that there are still no vehicles for purchase for the Neighbors Helping Neighbors van.

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt and moved for adoption. Resolution passed by unanimous roll call vote.

Resolution #6 of 2022: Adopting Local Law No. 1 of 2022, a "Local Law Amending Miscellaneous Provisions of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law."

Whereas:

1. Local Law No. 4(LL4) of 2021 (a Local Law Amending Miscellaneous Provisions of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law) was introduced at the Town Board meeting of November 18, 2021.
2. The Town Board reviewed and accepted Part I of the FEAF accompanying introduction of LL 4 of 2021.
3. The Town Board held a duly noticed public hearing to elicit input from the community on these zoning amendments on December 16, 2021. The Town Board also posted a copy of the proposed Local Law on the Town's web site and made a paper copy of the proposed Local Law available for review by the public at the Town of Ancram Town Hall, 1416 County Route 7, Ancram NY 12502.

4. On December 16, 2021, the Town Board completed the required review of the FEAF Part II related to LL4 of 2021, evaluated potential adverse environmental impacts that may result from adoption of LL4 of 2021 by completing the FEAF Part III, and determined that there would be no significant adverse environmental impacts related to adopting these zoning amendments and has issued a negative declaration to that effect pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617. At that meeting, the Town Board subsequently approved filing of the ENB Notice to complete the SEQR process.

5. The Town Board made a referral to the Town of Ancram Planning Board as required in the Zoning Law, and to the Columbia County Planning Board (CCPB) pursuant to GML 239-m. The Town Board noted on December 16, 2021, that the Town of Ancram Planning Board and Columbia County Planning Board review results had not yet been received at that date. As such, final action on LL4 of 2021 was deferred until the 20 January Town Board meeting, thereby necessitating a title change from LL No. 4 of 2021 to LL No. 1 of 2022. No other changes have been made to the content of such proposed law.

6. This resolution continues the process started in November 2021 to introduce and adopt LL4 of 2021 that amends various sections of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law (the "Zoning Law"). The proposed Local Law Amending Miscellaneous Provisions of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law that was previously known as proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2021 shall now be re-labeled and cited as Local Law No. 1 of 2022.

7. The zoning amendments are proposed in the form of a Local Law pursuant to the authority and power granted to the Town Board and the Town by Articles 2 and 3 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law and by Article 2 of the New York State Statute of Local Governments.

8. The zoning law amendments in this local law are proposed to further implement the 2019 Town of Ancram Comprehensive Plan that established the need and direction for

further protecting the unique environment in the Town, and to further the vision and goals established by the Community.

9. The Town's Zoning Review Committee (ZRC) thoroughly discussed all proposed language in coordination with the Town's Conservation Advisory Council, Town Planner, and Town Attorney.

10. The Town Board has received CCPB approval, and the 45-day Planning Board comment period has expired on January 2, 2022 with no comment from such Board.

11. Pursuant to New York State Municipal Home Rule Law § 20, Local Law No. 1 of 2022 proposing updates to the Zoning Law for the Town of Ancram was received by each member of the Town Board prior to this meeting via email and that proposed Local Law shall be deemed to be on the desk of each member of the Town Board as of tonight's Town Board meeting.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,

Section A. That the Town Board hereby adopts Town of Ancram “Local Law No. 1 of 2022, Local Law Amending Miscellaneous Provisions of the Town of Ancram Zoning Law.

Section B. That the Board hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to post the updated Zoning Law on the Town of Ancram Website and to forward a copy of this updated Zoning Law to the Chair of the Town Planning Board, Chair of the Town Zoning Board of Appeals, and to the Town Building Department.

Section C. That the Town Board directs the Town Clerk to inform the Columbia County Planning Office of its decision on such form as may be prescribed by the Columbia County Planning Office.

Section D. That the Town Board shall enter this law into the minutes of the Town Board and shall publish a summary or abstract of it once in the official newspaper of the Town.

Section E. That the Town Board instructs the Town Clerk to maintain a file in her office in the Town Hall to contain all parts of this law, including the maps, and instructs the Town Clerk to ensure that affidavits of the publication and posting of the amendments be filed with the Town Clerk.

Highway

Mr. Miller gave the following Highway Report:

Diesel Fuel: 486 gallons

Gasoline: 502 gallons

*We conducted snow and/or ice removal operations on 8 separate days in December and 6 days so far from January. There have been an unusual amount of ice events which have required us to use an extraordinary amount of sand and salt.

*We have been hauling in sand to maintain our stockpile.

*We Continue to check over, maintain and clean the plow trucks and make repairs when needed.

*Utilized the services of a licensed trapper to remove a total of 7 nuisance beavers on Simons and E Ancram roads that have been clogging culvert pipes requiring daily cleaning.

*2022 Material bids

I only received bids for materials from 2 vendors this year. Both are up slightly from the previous year with the largest increase in blacktop prices which are up around \$6 per ton. From A Colarusso and Sons for Gravel, blacktop and stone products. And the second from Redwing for gravel and stone. I recommend the board accept both bids to enhance availability. We also utilize materials and services under State and County contracts.

*284 Agreement

This is a forecast of major projects I plan to do this year include finishing the repaving of Doodletown Road (.8 miles) and starting Hall Hill Rd (2 miles).

I also plan to chip seal another 4.9 miles of road.

Of course, this is only a forecast of work. Many factors such as Asphalt prices, unforeseen repairs to other roads caused by weather and available State funding, (which won't be known until April) come into play. Any of these factors can and often do force adjustment of this.

*Permission for the purchase of a 6' sander for the pickup for \$5495 from Hudson River T&T

*I solicited prices for the purchase of the pickup that is in the capital plan for this year. I have been told that as of right now, no companies are not taking orders for fleet priced heavy duty pickups. It is unknown when this will change. We may have to wait until the new model year to receive the fleet discount.

A motion was made by Supervisor Bassin and seconded by Councilwoman Gold to accept the highway road material bids from Red Wing and Colarusso. Motion carried.

The following resolution was offered by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilwoman Gold and moved for adoption. Resolution carried.

Resolution #7 of 2022: Spreader for highway pickup – Resolved, that the Highway Superintendent is authorized to buy a spreader for one of the town pickup trucks to allow simultaneous plowing and sanding primarily on dirt roads.

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman to accept the 2022 284 Highway agreement which is on file in the Town Clerks office. Motion carried.

Mr. Miller said that the proposed new pickup truck may be on hold. Mr. Miller is having the same issue as Mr. Boice with the NHN van. There are no municipal prices right now. Mr. Miller is going to write up an advertise a bid spec.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Hundt and seconded by Councilwoman Gold to make the following budget adjustments. Motion carried.

From: Fund Balance \$10,000
To: Buildings 1620.43 \$4000
 Buildings 1620.41 \$1000
 Garage 5132.4 \$800
 Zoning 8010.41 \$1200
 ZBA 8010.42 \$3000

A motion was made by Councilman Clark and seconded by Councilwoman Gold to approve the warrants and pay the bills. Motion carried.

Carol Falcetti addressed the board about her suggested committee to look into the appointment to committee and board members. She does not understand why she does not have support for this committee. She noted that she will go forward regardless with this committee.

There being no more business before the board, a motion was made by Councilwoman Gold and seconded by Councilwoman Hundt to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Monica R. Cleveland
Town Clerk
Town of Ancram

