

**Town of Ancram
Comprehensive Plan Committee
October 22, 2007**

Present: Art Bassin, Barry Chase, Gene Aleinikoff, Jim Bryant, Bonnie Hundt, Don MacLean, Chris Sommerhoff, **Absent:** Leah Wilcox, Kyle Lougheed

The meeting of the Ancram Comprehensive Plan Committee was called to order by Chairman Art Bassin. Mr. Bassin welcomed new members Eugene Aleinikoff and Chris Sommerhoff.

A motion was made by member Chase and seconded by member Bryant to accept the previous minutes as read. Motion carried.

Mr. Bassin stated that the survey is currently six to seven pages long. Nan suggested that if it needs to be shortened, questions five through seven can be taken out. The committee agreed.

Mr. Bassin asked the committee if they felt the survey was too long; if it took more than ten minutes, would people take the time to fill it out? Member McLean stated that due to the importance of the subject matter, he would like to see people take their time in answering the questions. Member Aleinikoff asked what would stop people from filling out several surveys and sending them in if they are indeed confidential. Mr. Bassin stated that in the 15 years that Nan has been in this business she has never seen this happen.

The Committee Discusses the Survey

Mr. Bassin stated that the Major Issues categories still needed updating and possibly new issues added. It was decided to consolidate (a) maintaining agriculture and (b) maintaining open spaces into just encouraging agriculture at the suggestion of Mr. Chase. Mr. Sommerhoff suggested taking out (c) Preserving natural resources and instead adding mining. Mr. Bassin suggested adding maintaining highways to the list.

Ms. Hunt suggested adding an “other” choice to question number nine, “What is your main occupation?”

For question number 14, Mr. McLean suggested changing (d) to “*participate in* buying farmland.

Mr. Aleinikoff suggested taking out question number 16. The committee agreed.

Mr. Bassin stated that the Jobs, Business and Commercial Development section needs additional work, as does the Improving Town Centers question.

Several other small changes were made throughout the document.

Mr. Bassin stated that he would edit the survey and send it to Nan for suggestions.

Mr. Bassin reminded the Committee that they had discussed having the survey available online for those who would like that option. Nan stated that there are three options; 1- have an outside firm manage the online process for \$3,000.00, 2- buy the software for \$200.00 and have Nan manage it or 3- not have an online option. The committee decided to not have it available on line.

The survey will be mailed out in the middle of November.

The next meeting will be held October 29, 2007 at 7:00pm. The Committee will finalize the survey and discuss the group meetings and interviews that should be held over the next few months. The Committee will also discuss their opinions what would happen if the Ancram Mill were to close over the next 20 years. Nan Stolzenburg will be at the 10/29 meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Hunt and seconded by Mr. Chase to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Monica Cleveland
Clerk