

**Town of Ancram
Comprehensive Plan Committee
October 29, 2007**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman Art Bassin.

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

Chair Bassin stated that at this time the Committee was at full strength, and was not looking for any additional members.

Member Bryant gave an update on the Town of Ancram Website (www.townofancram.org). He stated that there will be training for the town employees on Saturday November 10, 2007 at 10:00am. He also stated that the revaluation process is progressing and that Mr. Leggett, the Town Assessor, has said that the Physical Inventory Data will go out in November. If there are mistakes, the property owners are to call the assessor's office.

Nan Stolzenburg stated that she does not have all of the town profile data requirements she needs for the town profile write-up. They included building permit information, budget information for the Town for the last 10 years, a list of town officials, a list of the associations and civic groups in Town (Ancram Preservation, Ancram Landowners, Neighbors Helping Neighbors), information on the county and town highways, Emergency Services for the town and a listing of the businesses in Town. Nan asked to be given a list of the amendments to the 1972 zoning plan and the town laws and ordinances. Town Clerk Monica Cleveland will make copies of the ordinances and laws and budgets. Jim Bryant said he had town official for the web site and would send that to Ms. Stolzenburg. Art Bassin said he and Don MacLean had made arrangements to get building permit data.

Nan has the write-ups of the workshops available now. This information will go on the website and out to those on the e-mail list. Nan will answer any questions or comments.

The Committee proceeded to discuss the survey. Chair Bassin stated he had shared the survey with 6 people, who reported back that it was clear, easy to read and takes approximately 20 to 30 minutes to fill out.

On page 1 it was decided to take the "Confidential/Anonymous off of the top of the first page. The word "Town" was added to question number 3. It was asked if there was a fear that citizens would duplicate the surveys. Nan stated that the surveys could be numbered but feared the community may feel like their answers were being tracked. The Committee felt that this was not necessary and that they wanted the people of the

community to feel they were trusted by the Town. The mailing list for the survey has 1600 people on it. The committee decided to have 1750 surveys printed to cover any people who are not on the mailing list. Chair Bassin will arrange for a press release and public notice announcing the survey in the local papers, and encouraging the residents who did not receive a survey in the mail to pick one up at the Town Clerk's office.

On Page 2 the Committee decided to eliminate the word "Major" from the major issues title. There were also various typos.

On page 3 along with some typos there were some changes to question number 17. Nan suggested that the question convey that there are some local regulations that are in accordance with the State Laws. Mr. Bassin also stated that he had received the number 208 as the amount of building permits issued for new homes between the years 1989 to 2007. He will receive the final numbers from the building inspector on Wednesday. Member Bryant stated that question #15 should read "up" to three items and the on question #18 the word "want" should be underlined. Chair Bassin suggested leaving it as is. Nan stated she felt it was a leading question and that the categories should be broader. She suggested slight, moderate and a lot as the possible selections for the answers.

On question #19, member Wilcox felt that Large Subdivision was missing from the list. She felt that this should be written as over 50 units. Member Chase stated that 50 to large a number and felt it should be listed as 25 units as that would be a large subdivision for Ancram. Nan suggested wording it as "over 25 units". The Committee agreed. Also fine tuned on the list was the multi-family homes. They are to now read, 1) small apartment buildings with 3-6 units, 2) apartment buildings over 6 units and 3) duplexes. Member Bryant asked if the survey should include a ranking for this section. The Committee decided not to.

On Page 4 question #22 Member Bryant suggested giving examples for the categories. Chairman Bassin stated that there may not be enough room for this. Nan suggested adding big box stores to the list. They have to be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan in order for them to be included in the zoning revision. Member Bryant suggested taking question #23 off the list.

In the section listed as Improving Town Centers, Nan drew the Committee's attention to the question on lot sizes in the town centers. She asked if this was an issue related only to the town centers. Chair Bassin suggested including a lot size question in the housing and development section. Member Bryant suggested adding it to the list in question #20; smaller, larger or stay the same.

On question #28 add the word Hamlets to the statements dealing with municipal water and sewer. The Hamlet sizes will be specified 1- 2 acre lots.

Under Recreation and Parks, Member Wilcox suggested adding "maintaining" to the swimming pool. It was asked if the question should read differently and not be an issue of money but an issue of wanting the service. Member Bryant suggested leaving it as is

because people may qualify the services by the amount of money they would spend towards it. Member Wilcox suggested splitting Road Maintenance and snow removal into two different categories.

On question #33 Nan suggested changing it to be similar to how the recreation question reads. Ask what they citizens want and then if they are willing to spend money on it. She suggested wording the question as follows: "Should the town be involved with the following" and then "Which activities should the town improve over the long term" Member Sommerhoff suggested leaving the tax dollars in because people will react to it. Member Bryant stated that it should be taken out because it cannot be quantified. A vote was called on the issue. All Committee members voted YES to the words "Tax Dollars" being taken out of the question.

Member Chase suggested taking question #40 on Global Warning out of the survey. Nan reminded the Committee that Global Warning was added to previous question #12. The committee agreed to remove question #40.

Chair Bassin stated that he would retype the survey the next day. Nan stated that the printer would need a week after the document was finalized.

The next meeting will be Monday November 5, 2007 at 7:00pm.

Nan proceeded to give an overview on focus groups.

Nan suggested that the Committee begin discussing how they would like to use their focus groups. The group meetings can be done now to discuss certain issues without the feedback form the survey's, or they can be done after the survey feedback is available and used to review and discuss issues that arise from the survey.

Nan suggested making the town's teenagers a focus group. At this time they are the only group who has not had a chance to give their opinion of the plan.

Member Chase stated that he felt that there was no need to wait for the survey to interview the farmers.

Chair Bassin stated that at the next meeting discussion of the focus groups will be on the agenda. Nan reminded the Committee that they do not have to be at the focus group interviews. They will be handled by Nan and Don. Mr. Bassin suggested the Committee plan to speak to the farmers not as a focus group but just as a regular discussion. Nan felt that would be fine.

A motion was made by Member Chase and seconded by Member Wilcox to adjourn. Motion carried.

Monica Cleveland
Clerk