

Comprehensive Planning Committee
Regular Meeting
July 2, 2007

Present: Art Bassin, Barry Chase, Don MacLean, Kyle Lougheed, Leah Wilcox, Monica Cleveland; Absent: Nancy Broe

The meeting called to order at 7:02pm.

Mr. Bassin asked for comments on, additions and edits to the consultant evaluation sheet. Mr. Chase stated that he would like to do away with the 1,2,3 ranking and discuss the points. Mrs. Wilcox stated that she would like to look at the # of meetings each consultant proposed to attend, their overall price and compare them all. Mr. Lougheed suggested that the committee narrow down the firms to a manageable number and then invite them back for more questions.

The Committee met with Saccardi and Schiff. David Smith from Saccardi and Schiff addressed the committee. The firm was founded 20 years ago, and has worked up and down the Hudson Valley. They have a 20 member staff. He suggests the town will have a new start with the development of the Comprehensive Plan. The firm has worked with South Hampton, Newberg and New Rochelle. They have the ability to listen to the community. He feels that the town has gorgeous views to preserve, mining issues, second home development issues and opportunities, environmental features to deal with and Hamlet enhancement opportunities in the future.

Comments: The committee felt that Smith was very knowledgeable, but neither he nor his firm has worked with small towns. Although this may be a problem, it is clear they have worked with issues facing small towns. The committee felt that Smith answered the Committee's questions honestly and clearly, and demonstrated a familiarity with dealing with an agricultural, rural community like Ancram. The Committee felt that there was no indication Saccardi and Schiff would bring the community into the process and engage the Community extensively during the Comp Plan effort. The Committee viewed this as a major problem Also, there was concern that the Saccardi proposal had not estimated costs for Phase 2, as requested by the RFP.

The committee ranked the firms up to this point. The top three were PPS, RiverStreet and Elan. Mr. Bryant suggested that the committee look through their notes of the three presentations. All three of them were very similar. Mr. MacLean stated that the key issue at this time is "clarified costs", which Mr. MacLean explained was understanding exactly what we would be getting by way of services from the consultant for the price indicated in the proposal, on a comparable basis, so we could accurately compare proposals

A motion was made by Mr. Bryant and seconded by Mr. Lougheed to adjourn. Motion carried.